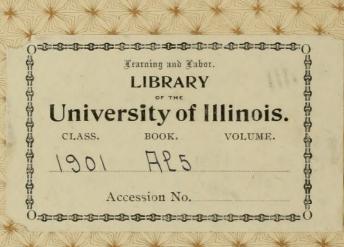
## ALLEN

Explosive Properties of Gas and Gasoline Vapor Mixtures

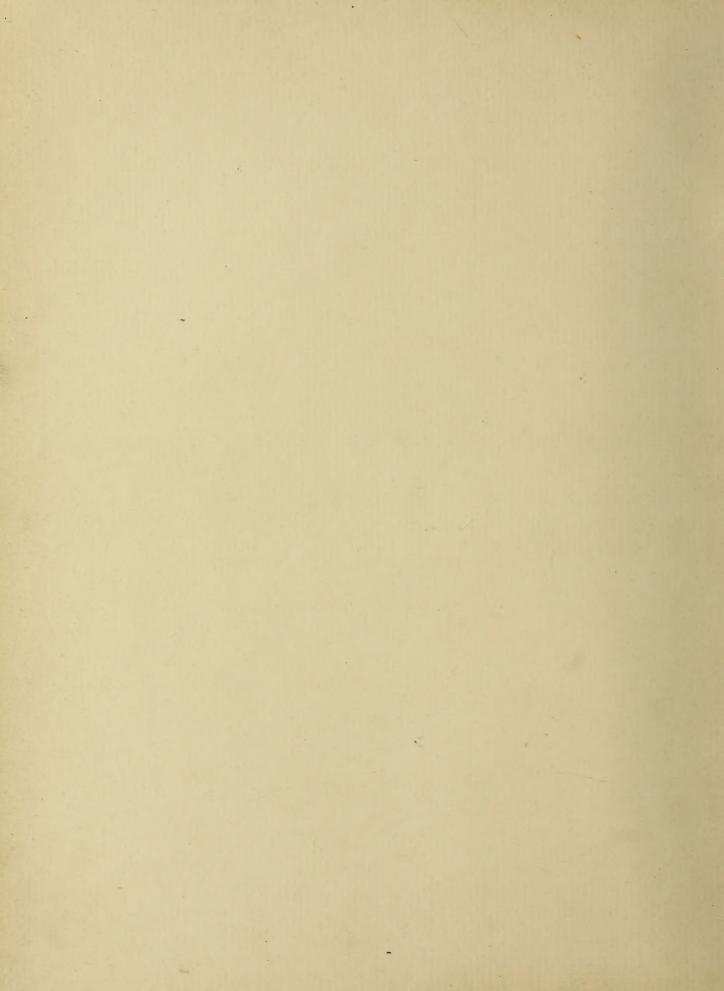
Mechanical Engineering B. S.

1901









UNIVERSITY OF THE INDI

# Investigation of the Explosive Properties of Gas and Gasoline Vapor Mixtures

.. BY ..

### FRANK GILBERT ALLEN

## THESIS

FOR THE DEGREE OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN

MECHANICAL ENGINEERING

IN THE

COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

OF THE

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRESENTED JUNE, 1901

VALUE OF STREET

investigation of the Explosive Uniperlies

Ginsolina Vagor Mutares

BEN'NY OFF BEST VIVES

THESIS

THE THE REPORT OF STREET OF STREET

MECHANICAL DECINERA

applicant with some

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY.

#### UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

May 31, 1901

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE THESIS PREPARED UNDER MY SUPERVISION BY
Frank Gilbert Allen
ENTITIED Investigation of the Explosive Properties of Gas and
ENTITLED THEOSULGUESTON OF THE MARKETONE OF THE STATE OF
Gasoline Vapor Mixtures
IS APPROVED BY ME AS FULFILLING THIS PART OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE
or Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering
12 1/ Trokennda

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT OF...

Mechanical Engineering

#### GIONITE TO THE STATE OF

Full step ment and

THE MODELLING AND RESIDENCE ASSESSED AND ADDRESS OF STREET

Propile Stillers Action

nearthean Three-righting of the replective Properties of the and

SEGGLIAN VANOR VALLADED

ARRIVED THE REPRESENTATIONS THE TO VALUE WITH DESIGNATION OF THE OFFICE AND THE PROPERTY OF

and december of fixteness in members in actions in

and the second section of the second section of the second section of the second section secti

UNIVERSITY OF LINOIS

The investigation herein described was undertaken with a view to determining the explosive properties of mixtures of gas and gasoline vapors with air with special reference to the following points.

a. Thayimm pressure obtained and how effected by various initial pressures.

b. Effect of burned gares in the mixture.

c. Time required for cooling.

d. Effect of various initial temperatures.

e. Best Proportions for the mixture.

Little investigation seems to have been carried on bearing-directly upon the above points, at least, little with reference to the gas engine. Estended research has been made by Bunsen relating to the explosive properties of gas and air mixtures, and his results have been confirmed by Lavy and others, but the conditions

UNIVERSITE OF FILLIAN X

Digitized by the Internet Archive in 2013

met with in the gas or gasoline engine have not been dealt with. Gas and air nixtures - at - atmospheric pressure have also been studied with special reference to their use in the gas engines, but the results of these muestigations have been limited in their value on account of the fact that modern gas engines are almost universally run with -an initial pressure of several atmospheres. However, some investigations carried on at the massachusetts Institute of Technology during the year ending June, 1900, considered the effect of different initial pressures on the explosive properties of various mixtures of gas with air, but the results of these experiments have us yet not been obtainable for comparison with those in the present discussion. It has been the aim in this investigation to pay special attention to mixtures of gasoline with air, although mixtures of illumnating gas with air will also be considered.



Design of special apparatus necessary. In order to investigate the eplosive properties of gas and gasoline mixtures with air, some special apparatus was constructed. This consisted in general of five parts, thus:-

I. a cylinder sufficiently strong to withstand the pressure due to the explosion of a gas and air mixture within it.

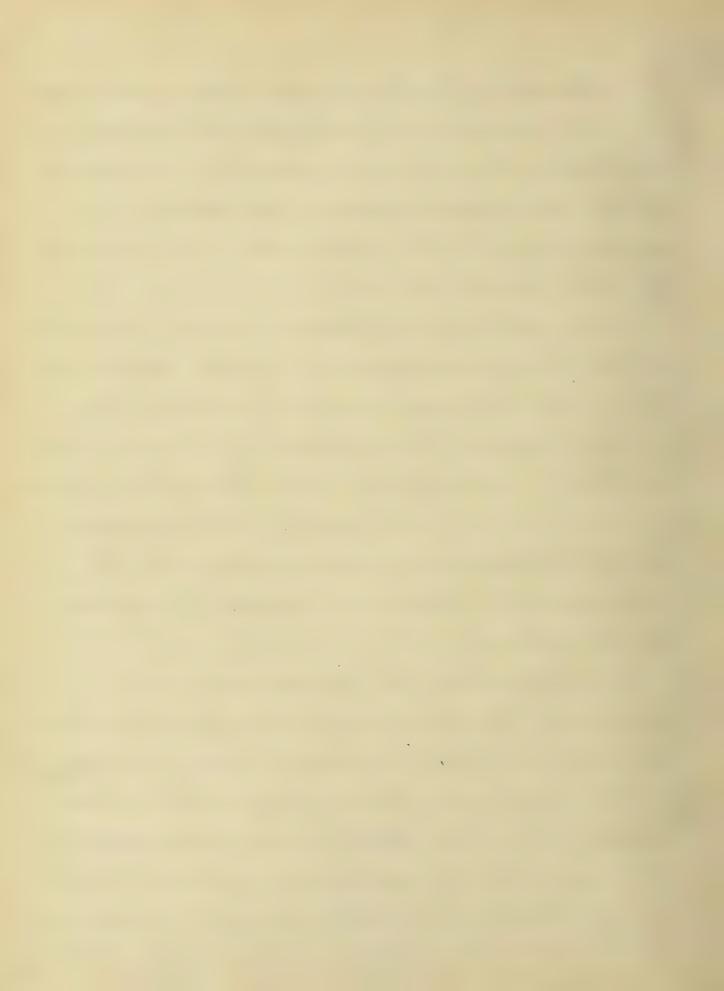
2. A device for introducing a gas mixture of known proportions into the above cylinder.

3. a device for igniting the mixture.

4. A pressure recording apparatus to indicate the pressure obtained by exploding the mixture.

5. Apparatus for measuring and recording the time required for the various phenomena of explosion and cooling.

about one nich thick was constructed to be used as the explosion cylinder, but upon testing it by hydraulic pressure up to 600 pounds per square inch, it was



found to have a number of blow holes through the walls and was discarded. The cylinder shown in plate 1. was then constructed and tested and proved satisfactory.

In introducing a charge into the cylinder of a gasoline engine one of several methods of obtaining the proper mixture of gasoline vapor with air may be employed. (a) The air may be charged with the desired quantity of the vapor by being caused to pass over the surface of liquid gasoline, or (b.) it may be forced through a wire gange wet with gasoline, absorbing the vapor as it passes through the gauge. Other methods are also employed but will not be mentioned here. The second method mentioned was adopted in these experiments for the reason that it was desired to measure or weigh the gasoline used for each charge entering the cylinder, which

could be readily done by this method.

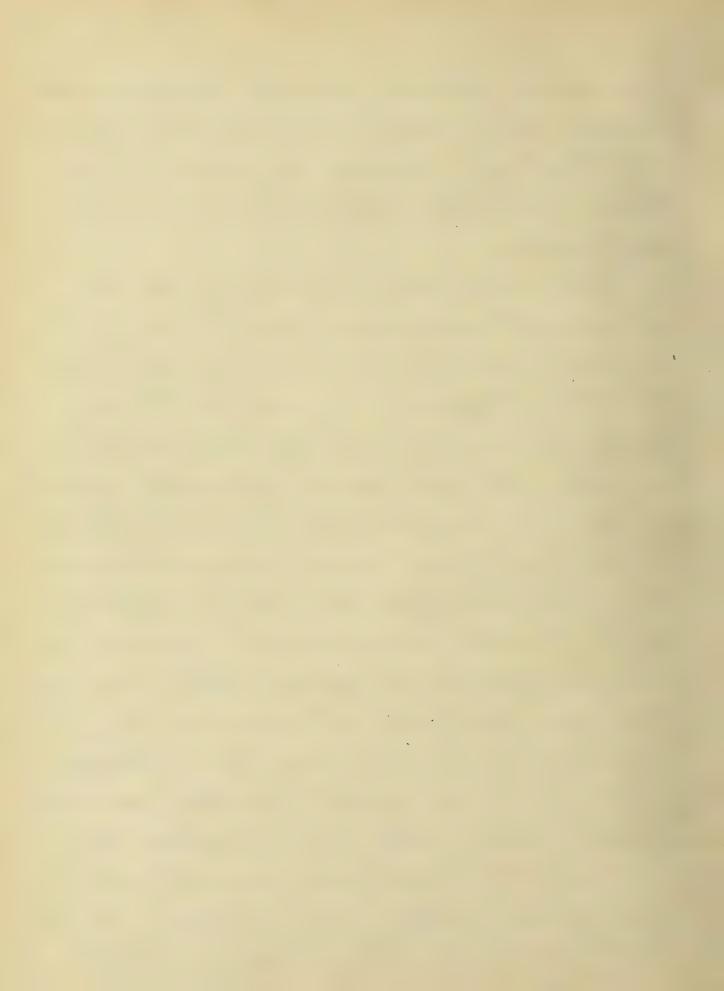
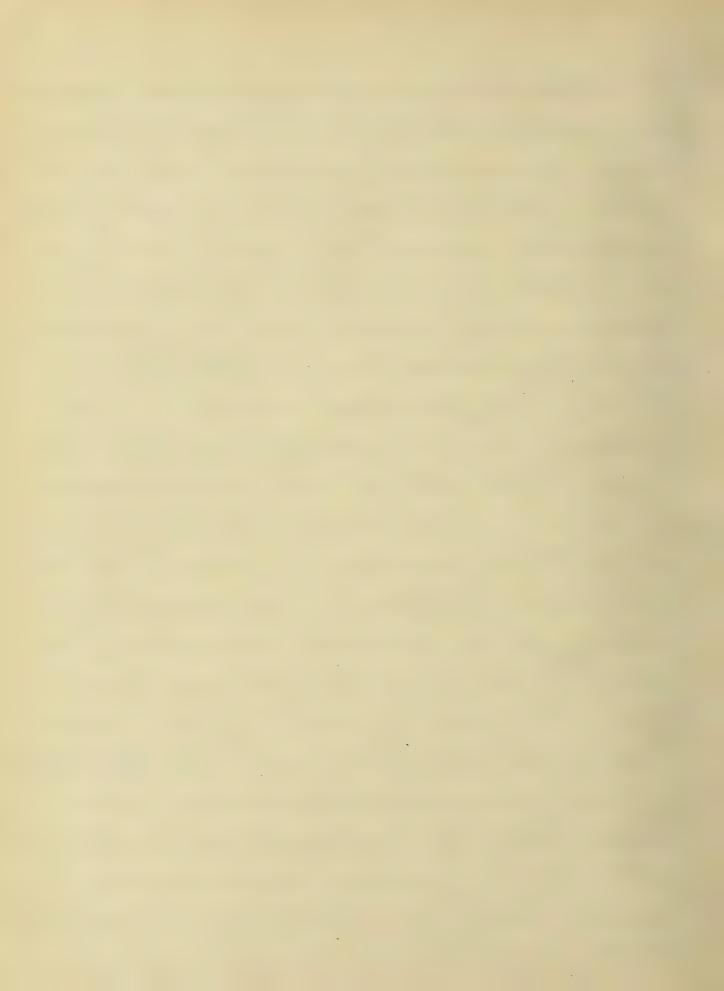


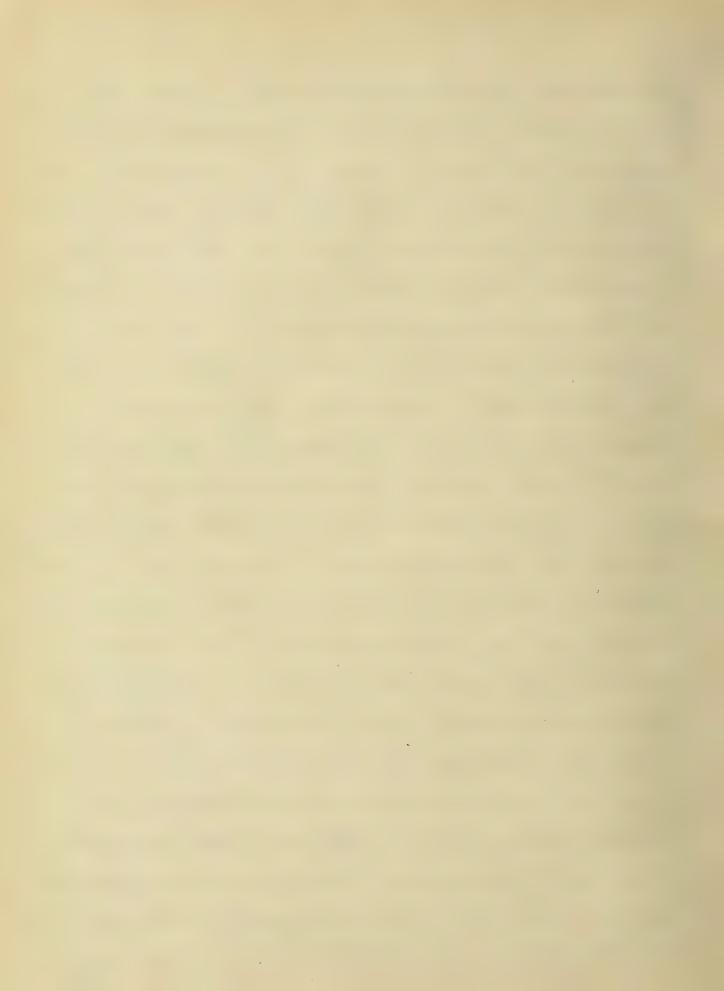
Plate 3 shows the carburettor employed to vaporize the gasoline Plug 3 having been removed, oil introduced at I passed down into the shallow pan 2 after which plug 3 was replaced and screwed down so as to close the opening 1. Compressed air, from a large receiver, was then admitted by opening values 4 and 5. The cup 6 being filled with fine copper wire, the oil was entrapped in the spaces between the wires and held until it all was evaporated by the air and carried into the cylinder below. The quantity of gasoline to be introduced at -a charge was measured by means of the graduated gears tube 7, the gasoline being drawn into and forced out of the tube by means of the rubber bulb B. In measuring with this tube, it was found best to draw in more liquid than it was desired to measure with it at once and force out the excess until the bottom of the meniscus at the surface of the liquid was level



with the desired graduation. In this way no bubbles of air were entrapped in the liquid to cause error in measurement.

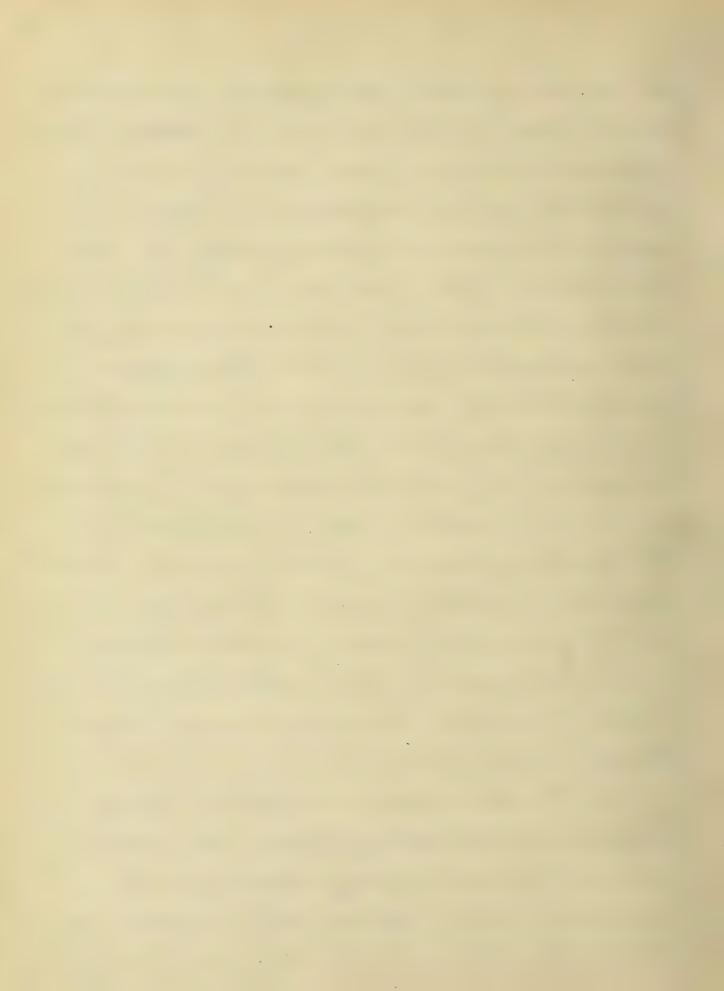
In introducing the charge of gasoline and air into the cylinder by the above method, all of the gasoline was found to pass out of the cup 6 into the cylinder, but it is believed that in cases in which the quantity of gasoline was large, some of it entered the cylinder in the liquid state. In order to vaporize this liquid and also to better mix the gases in the cylinder, a small fan was placed inside the cylinder to be operated by means of a pulley on the fan shaft outside the cylinder. The fan shaft was carefully packed with askestos where it parsed through the cylinder head.

In experiments with mixtures of illuminating gas with air, the mixture was introduced in a somewhat different way. The gas was introduced through a rubber tube connected at C. (Plate 2) until



a sample of the gas flowing out of the lower part of the cylinder at 1 (Plate 2.) was found to be free from air by burning a quantity of it collected in a test tube; when the gas burned quietly it was assumed to be free from air. The outlet value Howas then closed and compressed air admitted at E until the desired proportions of gas and air were obtained as calculated from the pressure indicated by-gange c. If the pressure in cylinder was then greater than regured for the mitial pressure of the mixture to be exploded, -after careful sturing by means of the fan, the excess of the mixture was allowed to pass out through the value H until the pressure was lowered to the desired point,

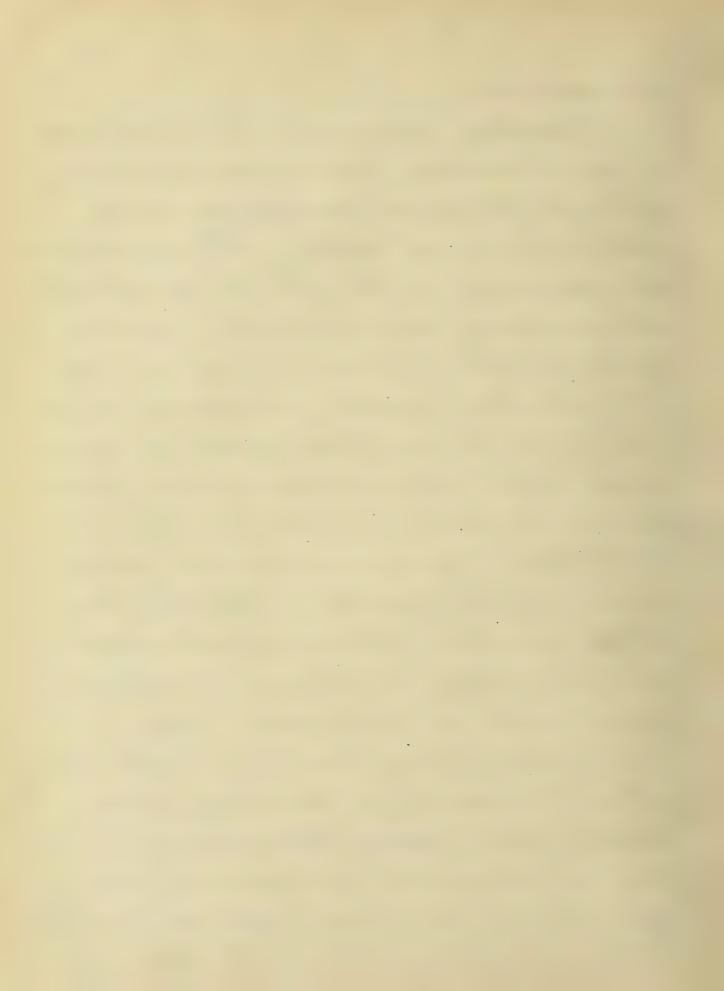
after the desired mixture was introduced into the cylinder, the values G,X,Y and H, (Plate 2) being closed and the indicator cock z opened, the mixture was fired by means of the apparatus now to



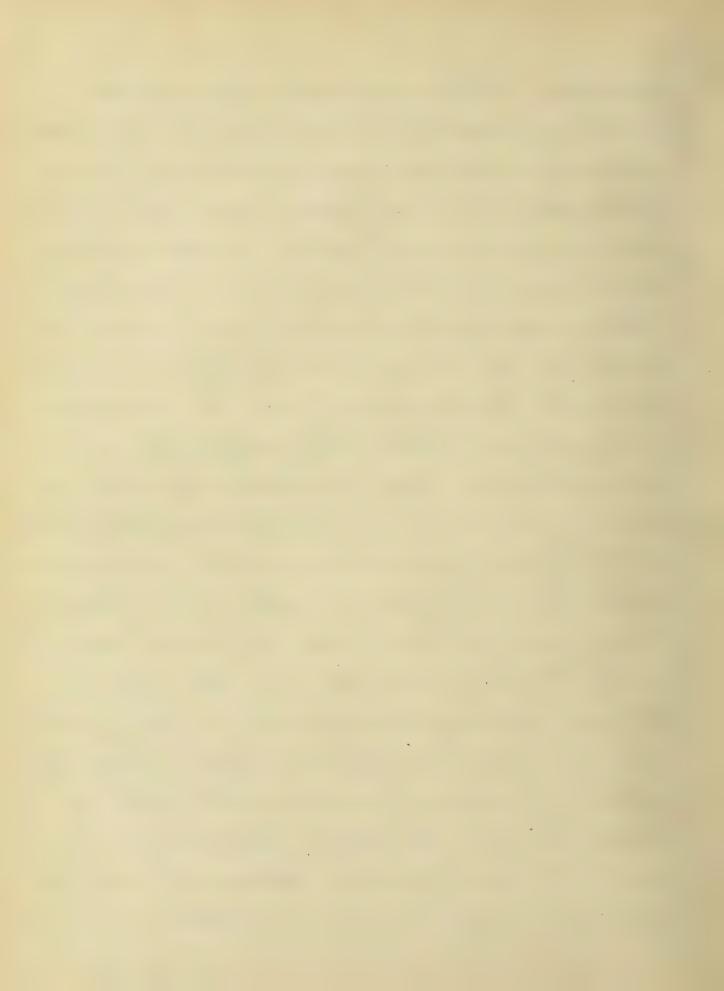
be described.

I gruting apparatus. This consisted of an induction coil H (Plate 2), capable of giving a 3 " spark, operated by a 5 cell Edison Lalance battery L, The spark from The secondary of the coil passed through an insulating plug into the explosion cylinder, where it jumped across a short in gap thus igniting the charge of gas. In order to cause the spark to pass at the right moment, the primary circuit which is shown in blue in plate &, was closed by a contact point I on the -drum of the indicator 3, -after this drum started to rotate. The use of the drum and the reason for placing the contact point upon it will appear cater.

Recording apparatus. In order to obtain a record of the phenomena taking place during the combustion of the gas and air mixture, an ordinary gas engine indicator with an enlarged une was connected to the explosion

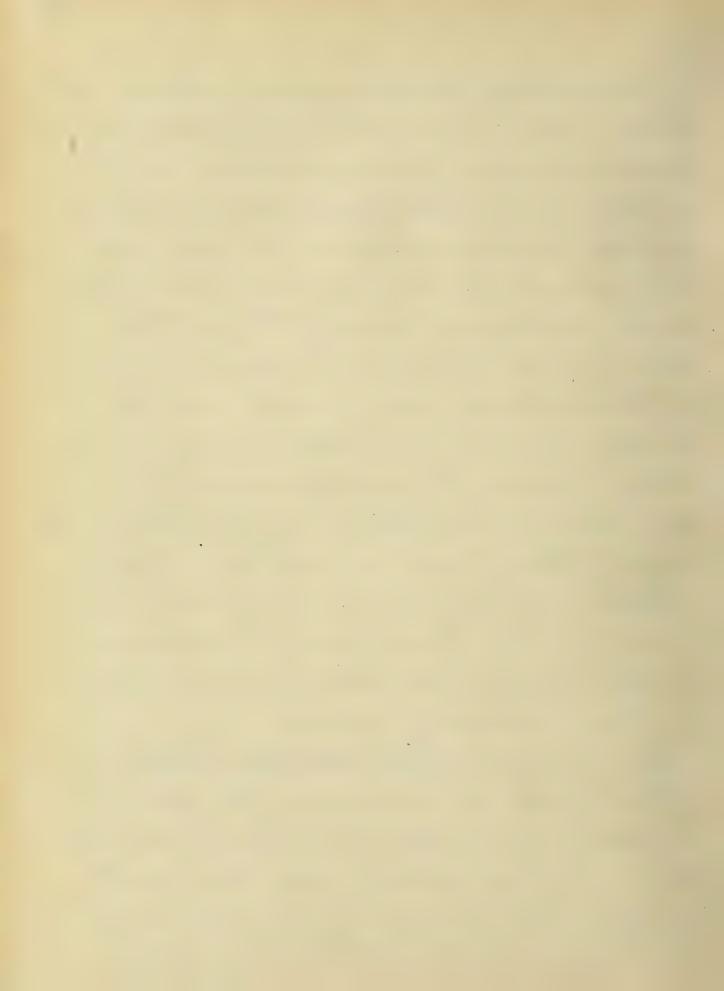


cylinder. This indicator had a piston with an area of + sq. mch, so that an ordinary indicator spring calibrated for an undicator with a piston usea of it sq. inch was regarded as of double its rated capacity when used in this gas engine indicator. The drum of the indicator was caused to rotate by means of a string passing over a pulley, R, and thence down to a weight, VV. The rate at which the weight, IN, was allowed to fall was regulated by means of the oil cylinder, P. Ihis cylinder was filled with oil and contained a fuston connected to the rod on which weight, IV, was hung. In order for the fuston to move down ward, it must force the vil below it up through the by pass, shown in the figure, and and into the cylinder again above the piston, it value was placed in the by pars so that the rate of flow of the oil could be regulated, and thus the rate of fall of ruleg! IN was regulated.

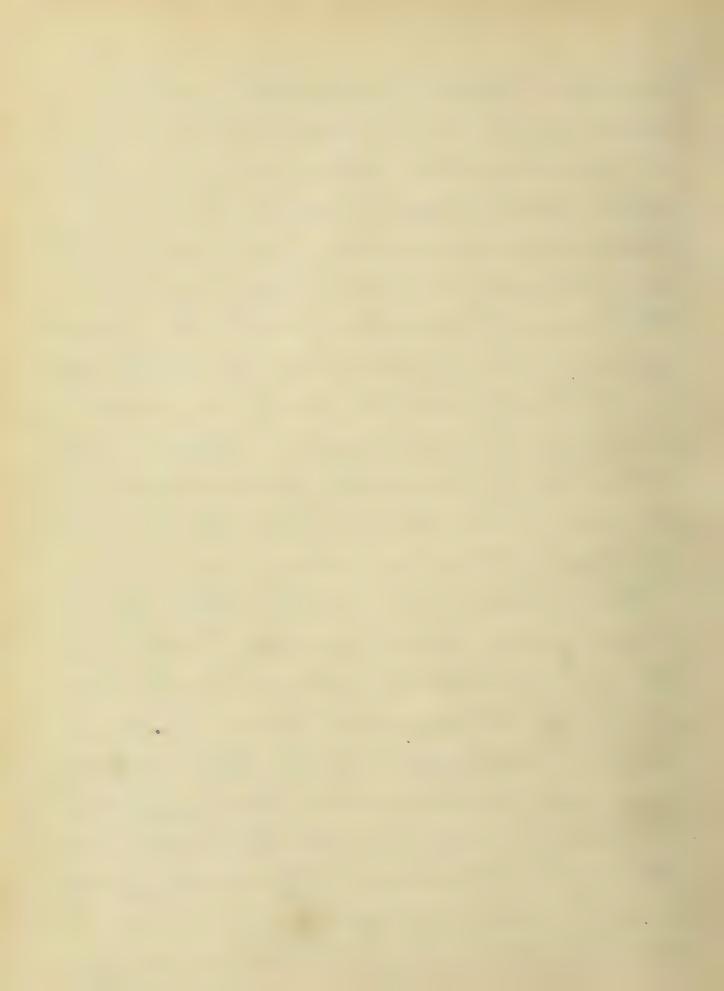


When the indicator drum started to rotate, the contact point, I, completed the primary circuit of the induction coil, thus causing - a spork to pass through the gas in the explosion cylinder. In this way The explosion could be made to take place at the proper time during the rotation of the indicator drum. The pressure caused by the explosion, -acting on the indicator preton and thus compressing the indicator spring caused the indicator pencil to rise un amount proportional to the presence. The pencel thus traced on a strip of paper wrapped around the drum -a continuous record of the pressure in the explosion cylinder during the rotation of the drum. Vine recording device.

The motion of the indicator drum was not perfectly uniform and its speed was not known, so that in order to find the time elapsing between my two points of the curve traced by the indicator pencil, a time recording device was



needed. This requirement was met by fastering a large turning book, M (Plate 2), in such a position above the indicator drum that a pencil carried on a spring fastined to one prong of the fork could be brought to bear on the drum in The same vertical line with the indicator pencil. This fork was so constructed, as shown in plate four, as to be kept vibrating by means of an electro magnet; Thus as the indicator driver revolved the pencil on the turning fork trace's a warry line on the upper portion of the paper strip on the drum. The putch of the fork having been accurately determined, The time increment between any two points of the pressure curve could be easily determined by projecting vertically upward to intersect the turing fork record - and country the number of waves between. the two interrections, I/he tuning fork used in these experiments was ground so that its fitch was 50 vibrations per second.



Experiments were made as follows:

1. Tests on gasoline mixtures to determine;

a. The maximum pressure obtained.

b. The time required for cooling of the

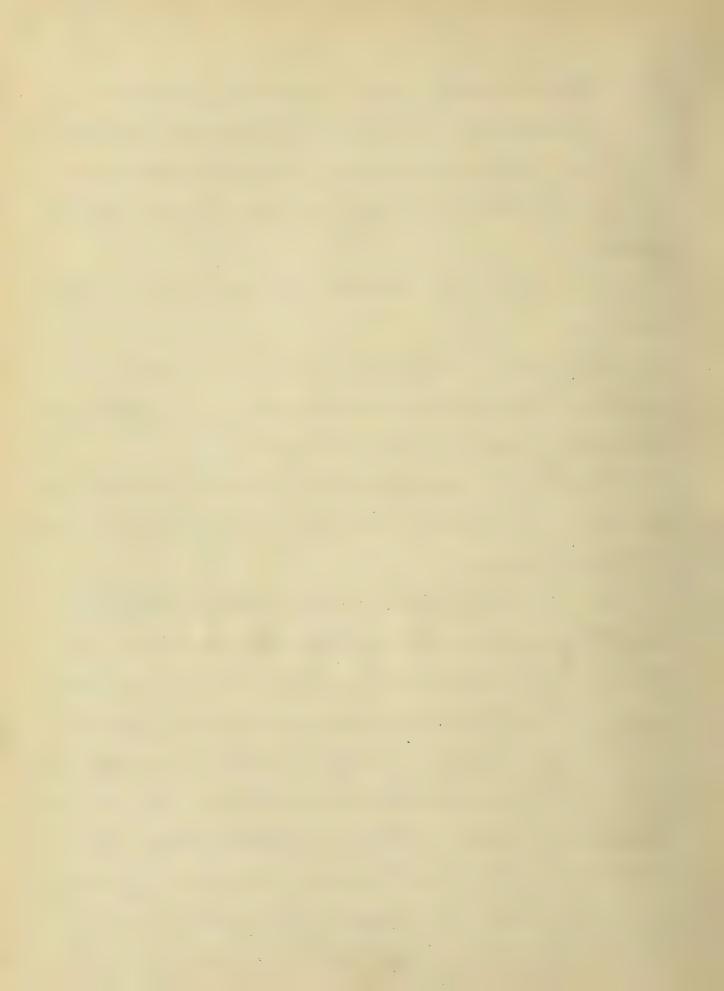
guses.

c. Effect of initial pressure on maximum pressure.

2. A second series of tests was made on gasoline mixtures to determine the effect of burned gases in the mixture.

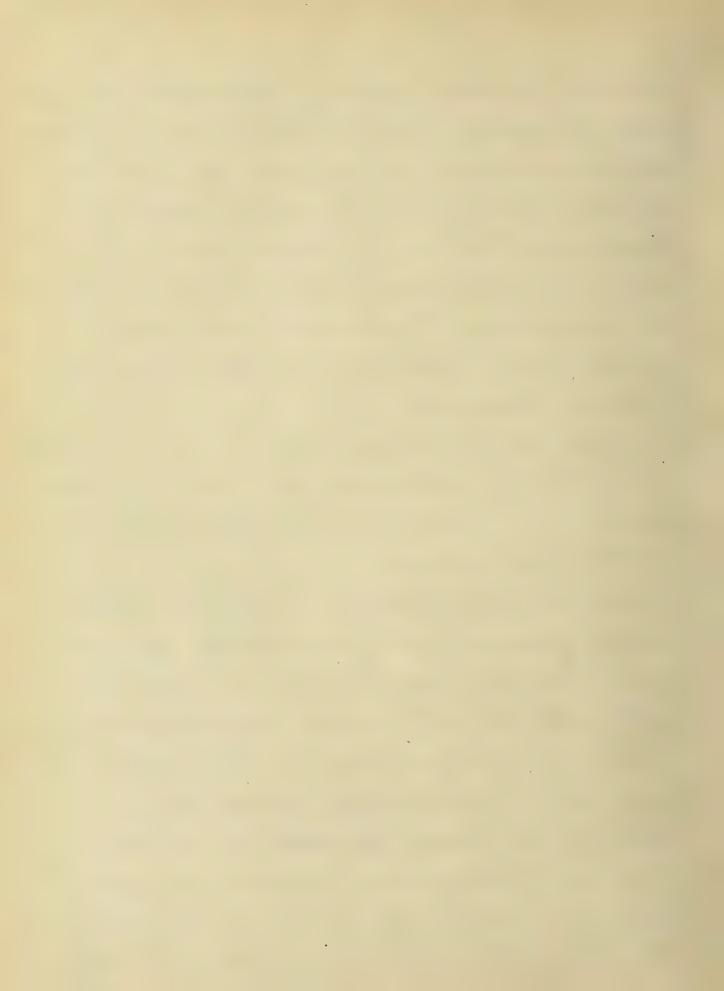
From the results of the above two series of tests the best proportions of mixture were decided upon.

In making the first series of tests a mixture of given proportions was exploded at different initial pressures varying from atmospheric pressure up to 50 or 60 pounds gauge This was repeated for mixtures of other proportions. Since the indicator cards obtained from these tests contained the time record made by the timing fork as explained above, the time required for explosion, or in other



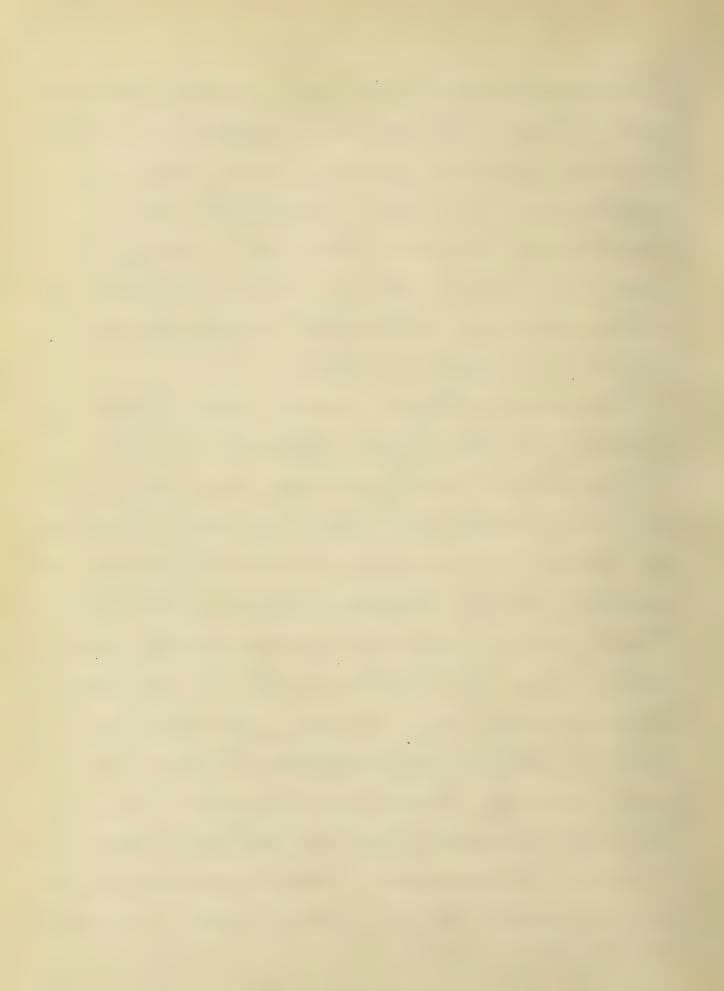
words, the time during which the pressure was increasing, and the Time required for the pressure to fall a given per cent due to the cooling of the gases, could be de termined. The same cards also gave records of the maximum pressure obtained in each case. From the data thus obtained the effect of the initial pressure became apparent.

The second series of tests was conducted as follows. The same mixture of gasoline and air as used in the first series of tests were exploded in the cylinder, and indicator cards taken as before, after each explorion of a fresh charge of gasoline. and are, the burned gases in the cylinder after the explosion were allowed to escape until the pressure fell to atmospheric pressure. A fresh charge of gasoline and air in the same proportions as the original charge was forced into the cylinder until the pressure was the same as the initial pressure before the explosion.



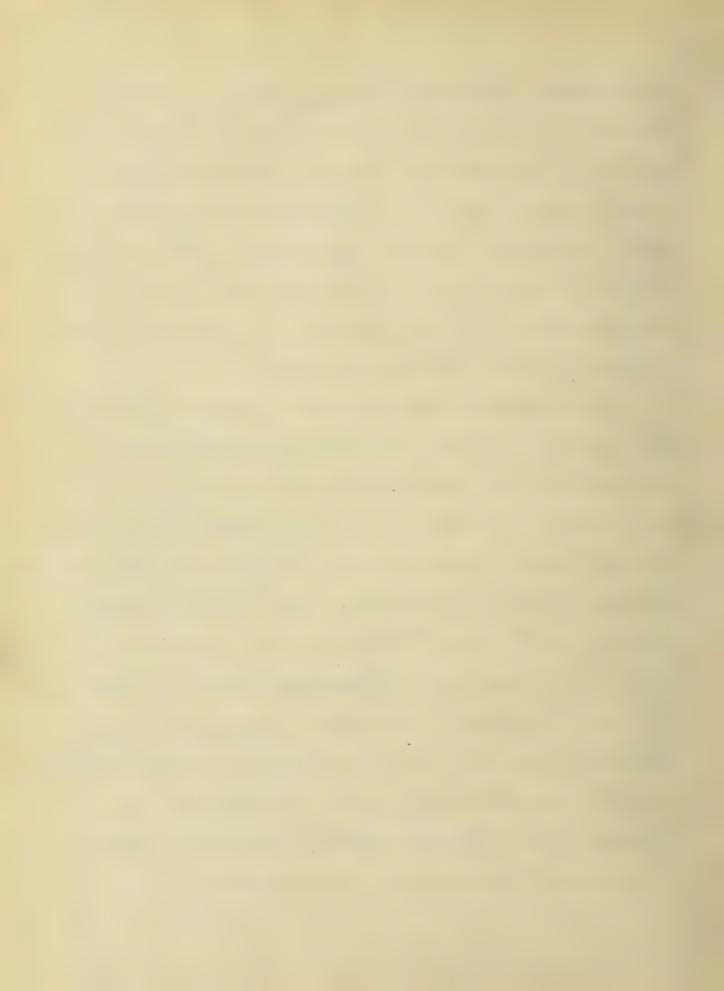
This mixture, consisting partly of burned gases from the previous explosion and partly of fresh gases, was then exploded and an indicator card taken as before. In this way a series of cards were obtained showing very plainly the effect of the burned gases in the mixture.

It was hoped when these tests were begun to find the effects of initial temperatures and also to find the highest temperature reached by some method of -direct measurement, but This was not satisfactorily accomplished. The initial temperature could be -approximately found by means of a thermometer in an ordinary Thermometer cup screwed into the cylinder, but such a determination was not sufficiently close to base upon it any detailed conclusions - as to the effects of mitial lemperature. no measurement was made of the temperature of the gas during explosion. It is believed.



however, that the temperature of the burning gas can be obtained by means of a platinum-iron thermocouple connected to a d'Assonval galvanometr, the readings of the galvanometer having been previously calibrated for various differences of temperature between the ends of the thermocouple.

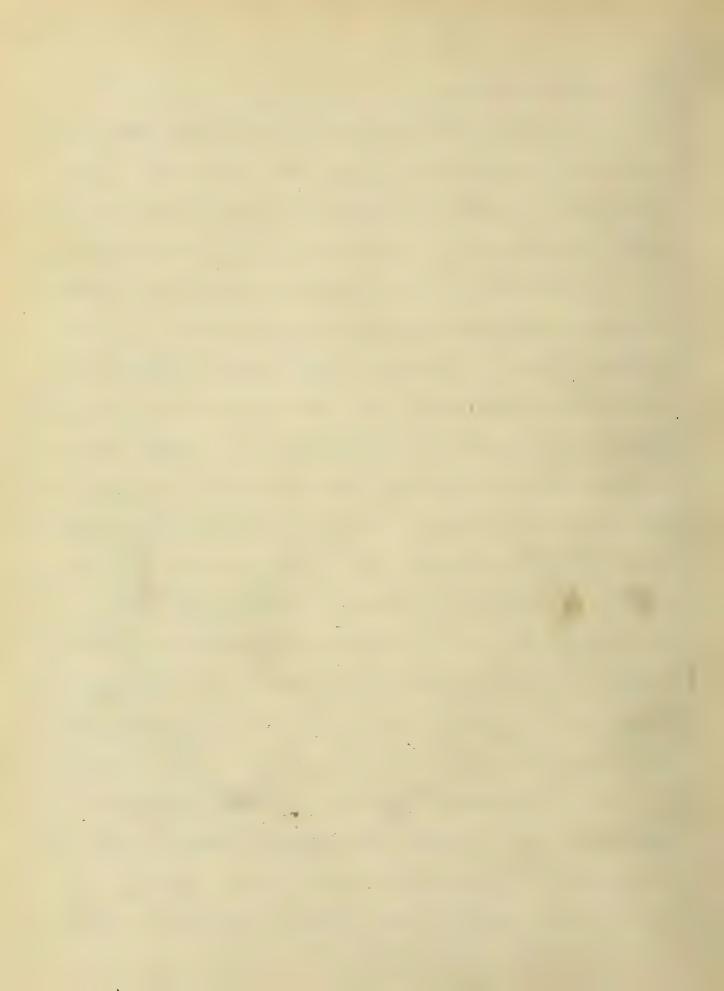
as stated before, the greater part of The time spent on the experiments - de scribed in this discursion was devoted to the mulstigation of gasoline mytures. However, -a few tests were made upon mixtures of illuminating gas with air. These tests were confined to a number of treals relating to the effect of untial pressure on maximum pressure, and did not differ materially in methods of procedure from the similar tests upon garoline mixtures.



Conclusions.

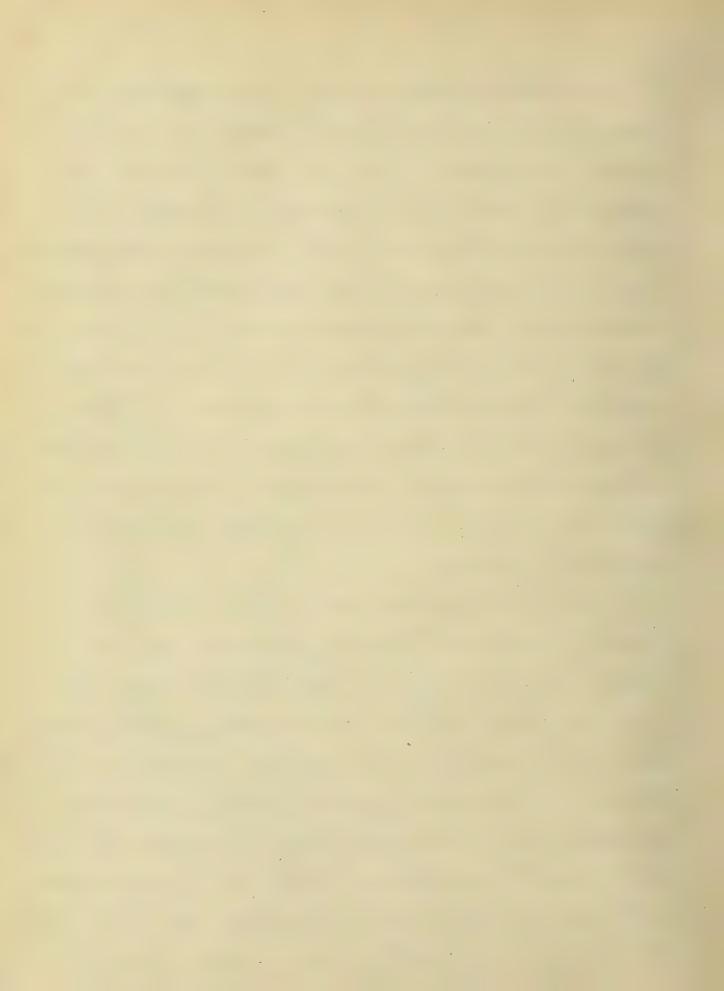
Ofter tabulating and plotting the more suportant results of the experiments which have been described, The following conclusions were drawn: 1. The maximum plessure obtained by the explosion of a gasoline und pure -air mixture of -given proportions varies directly as the mittal pressure of that mixture, I his is seen at ouch upon examining the curves on pages 22 to 30 inclusive. It will be seen that all of the results he very nearly in a straight line passing through the point of zero pressure (absolute). This holds also for mixtures of illuminating you with mir, us shown by the curve on page 32.

2. Burned gases from previous explosions, when mined with a fresh charge of gasoline and air, have several very marked effects which may be stated thus:



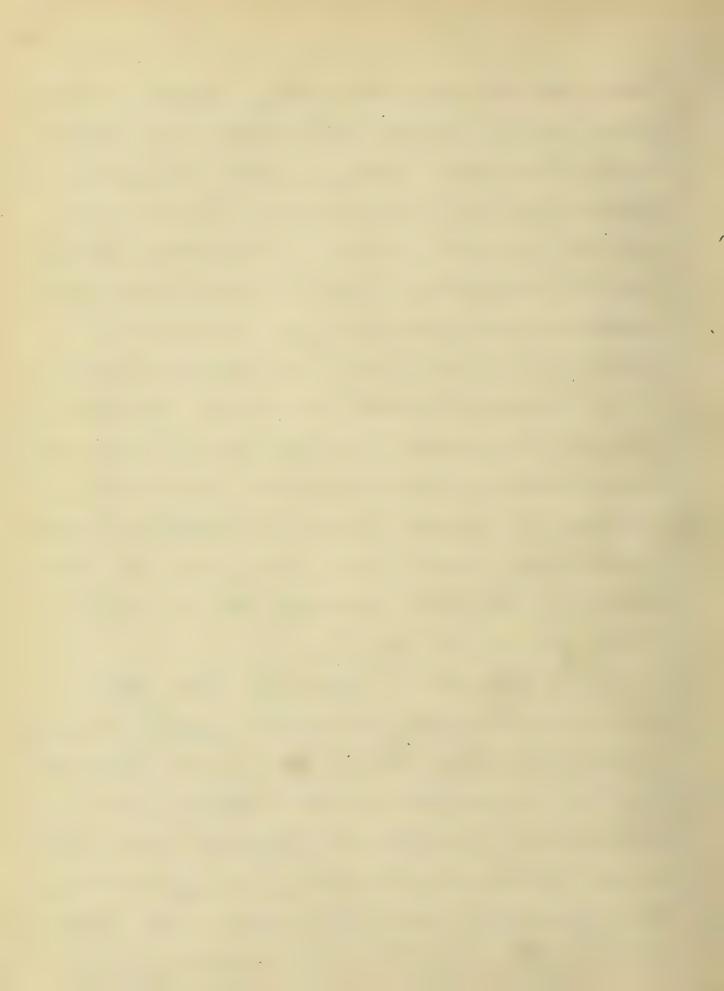
a. I he mixture does not explode as readily of at as low a pressure as a pure mixture. In the curves on pages 26 to 31, the curves midicating the results oblained with mixtures containing burned goses do not extent to as low on mital pressure on account of the fact that these mixtures do not explode at these low pressures. This might have been expected, since at the lower presences a larger proportion of the mixture is made up of the burned gares.

b. The maximum pressure is greatly reduced by the presence of the burned gases. The plotted results on pages 26 to 31 show this, all of the curves representative of mixtures containing burned gases being much below the corresponding curves for the pure mixtures. This is even more strikingly shown, however, by the series of indicator cards pages 33 to 42.



It will be seen that there cards are placed two on a page, the upper one being a card from the explorion of a mixture of gasoline and pure air, while the lower card is from a mixture of the same proportions - and mitial pleasure, introduced into a cylinder full of burned gases at atmospheric pressure. C. I swill also be seen by reference to the indicator cards that the rate of combustion of the mixture is much retarded by the presence of the burned gases, in some cases the plessure conturing to rise slowly for a second of true or more,

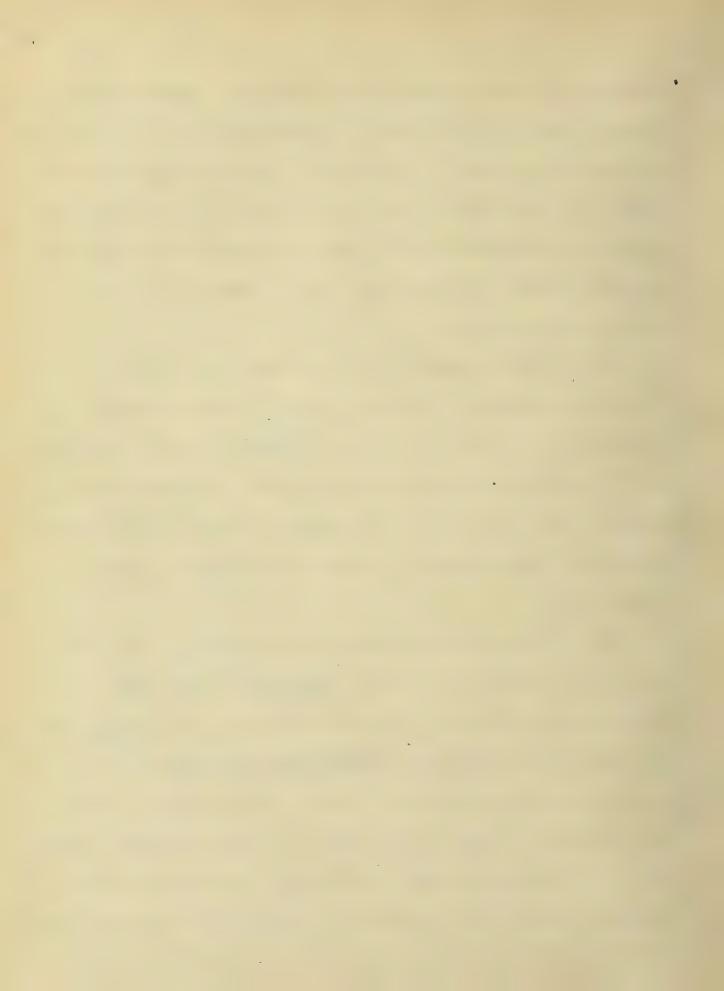
3. The time required for the pressure to fall a certain per cent, due to the cooling of the gases, is shown on the indicator cards and by the Tabulater results on page 43. It will also be noticed that, in general, the pressure resulting from the explosion of mixtures containing burned gases



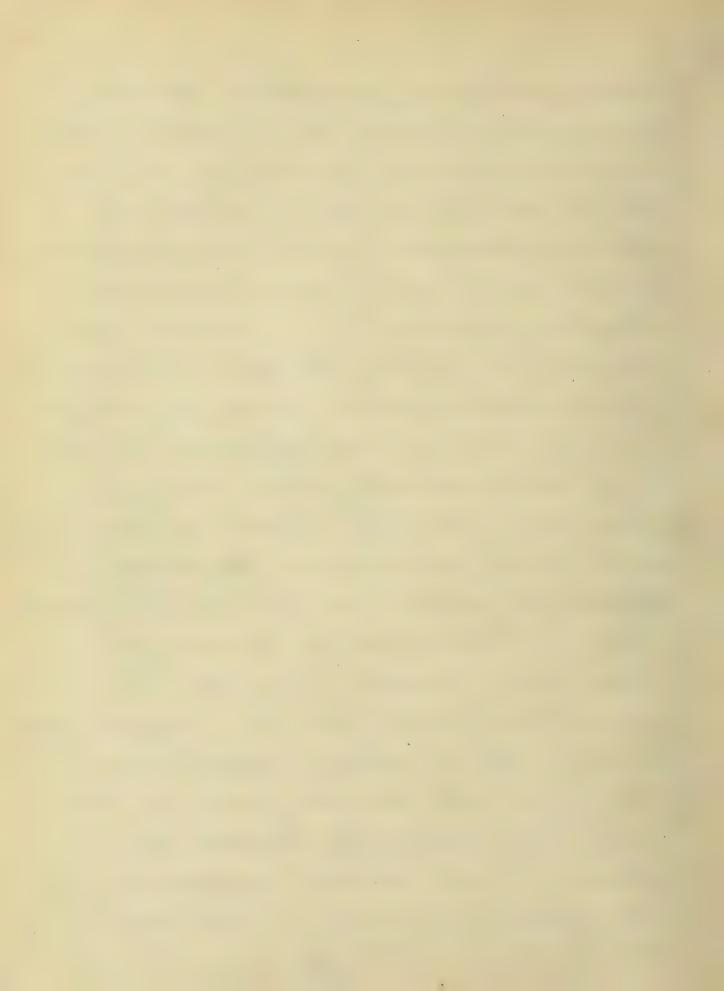
pressure after the explorion of a charge of pure gases. This is probably due to the fact that in the case of the burned gas mixtures the combustion continues after the pressure has reached a maximum.

Temperatures was not considered in detail, but it seems that the higher the initial temperture the more easily the charge is ignited and the more rapid the rate of combustion after ignition.

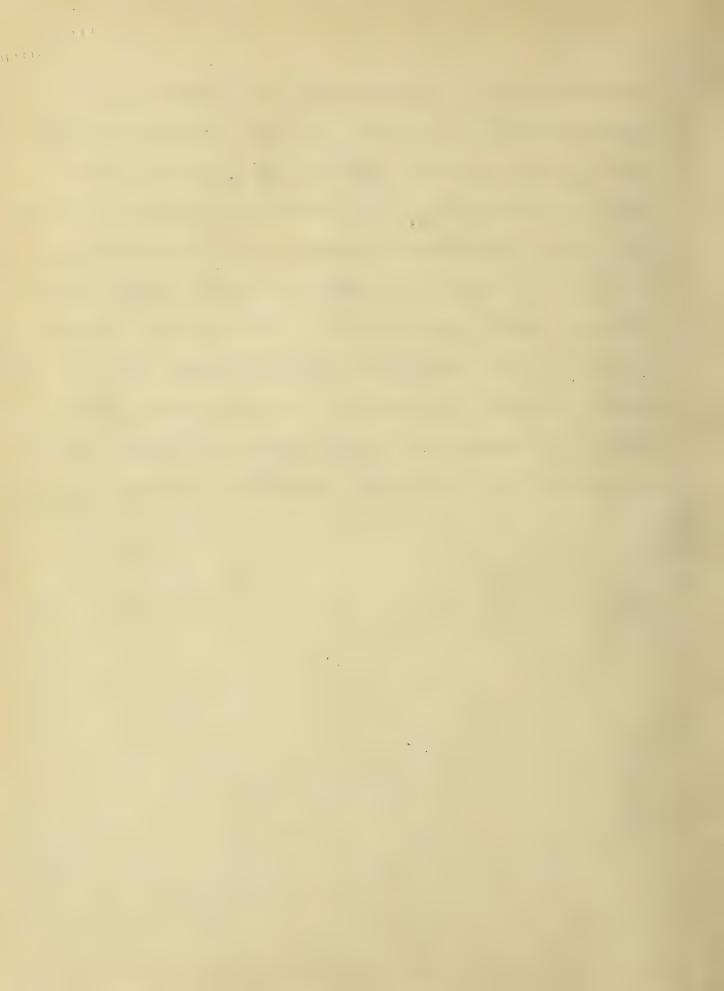
5. From a consideration of the above statements together with an examination of the curves on page 31, it seems that best proportions for a gosoline and air mixture are about 1 of gasoline to 10 or 11 of air by weight. It is noticable that the variation in the pressures obtained from various mixtures is

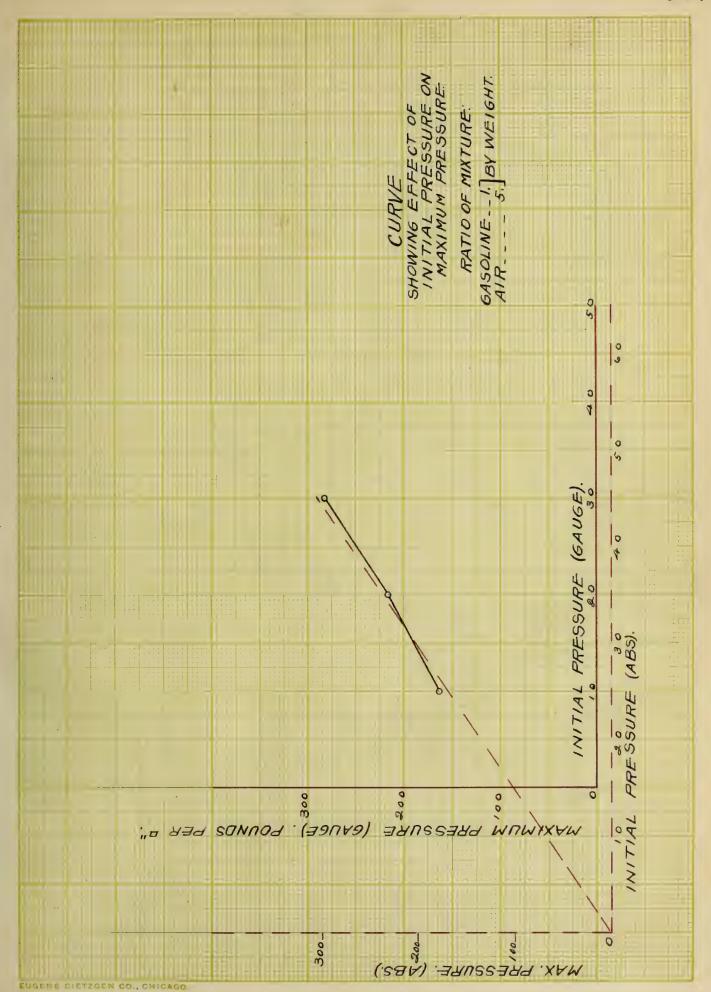


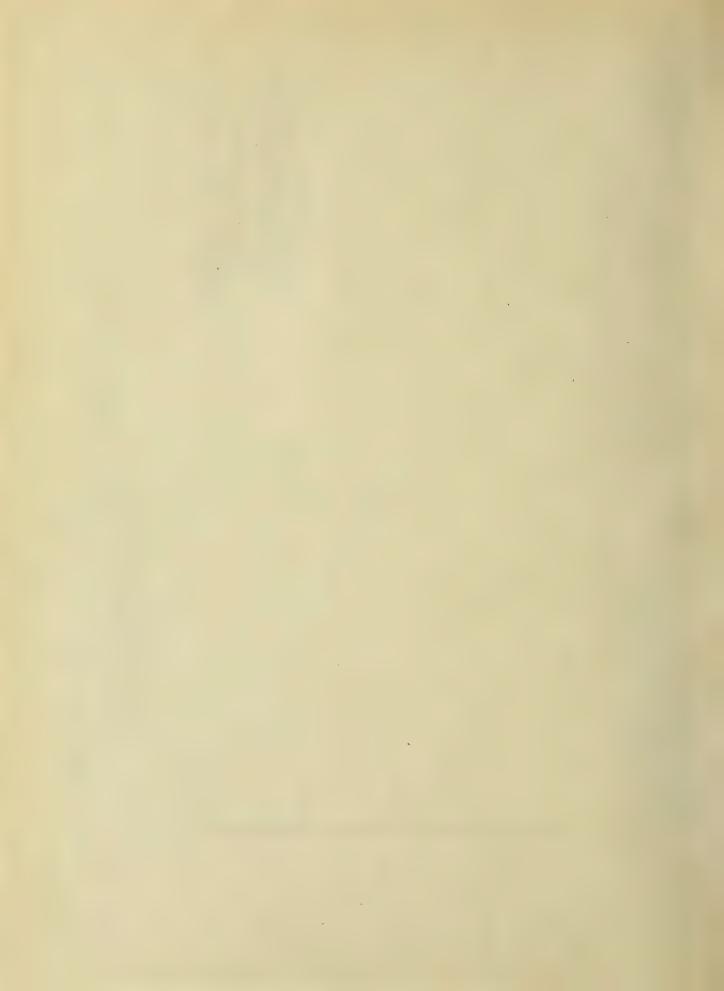
not nearly in proportion to the amount of gasoline in the mixtures; some mixtures containing 5 parts of -air to one of gasoline grane the lowest pressure, while "parts of air to one of gasoline-gave -a much higher pressure. A second consideration relating to the determination of the best mixture is the fact that The mixture of 1 of gasoline to 10 or " of air, not only gives a high pressure when the pure mixture is used but also gives a high pressure when mixed with burned gases. The effect of burned gases has been dwelt upon as an unportant point for the reason that nearly all gasoline engines are operated with burned gases in The myture. It will be seen by a glance at the curves plotted to show the effects of burned gases that The pressures obtained from the

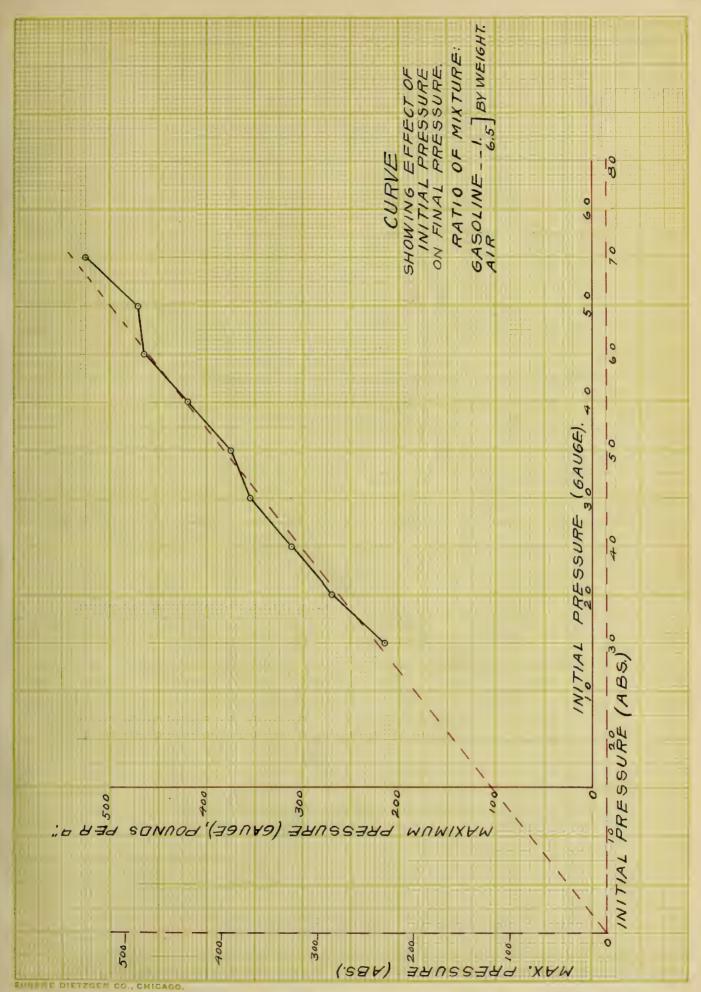


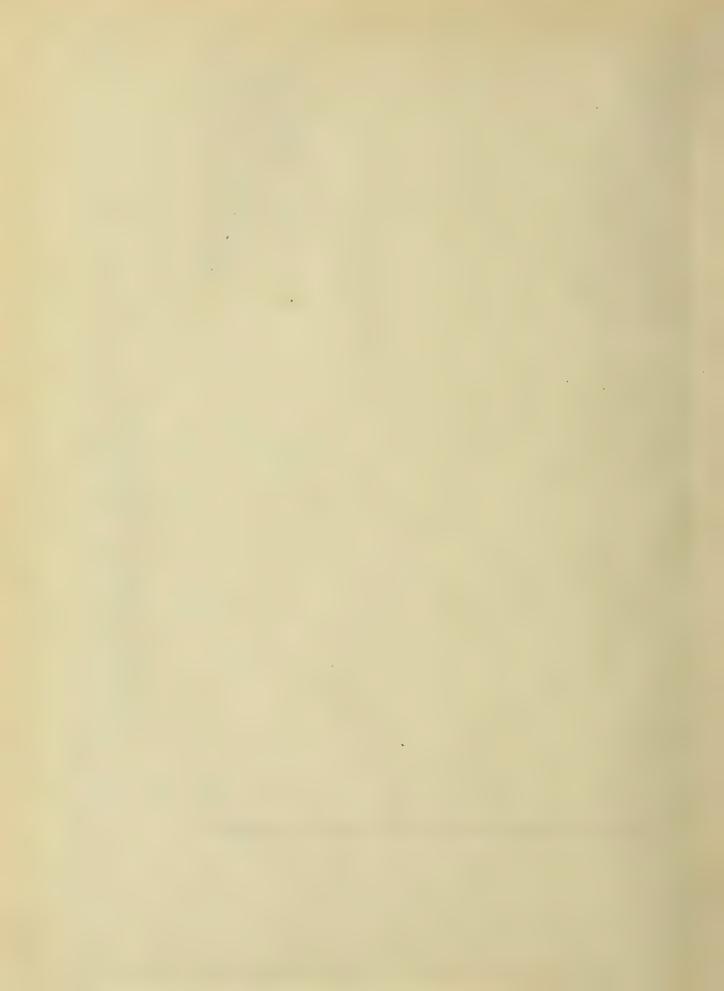
approache more and more nearly the pressures obtained from the corresponding mixtures of pure gases as the initial pressure increases. This fact together with the one that the explosion becomes more rapid at higher pressures, may in some measure account for the increased efficiency of the gas engine at high initial pressures.

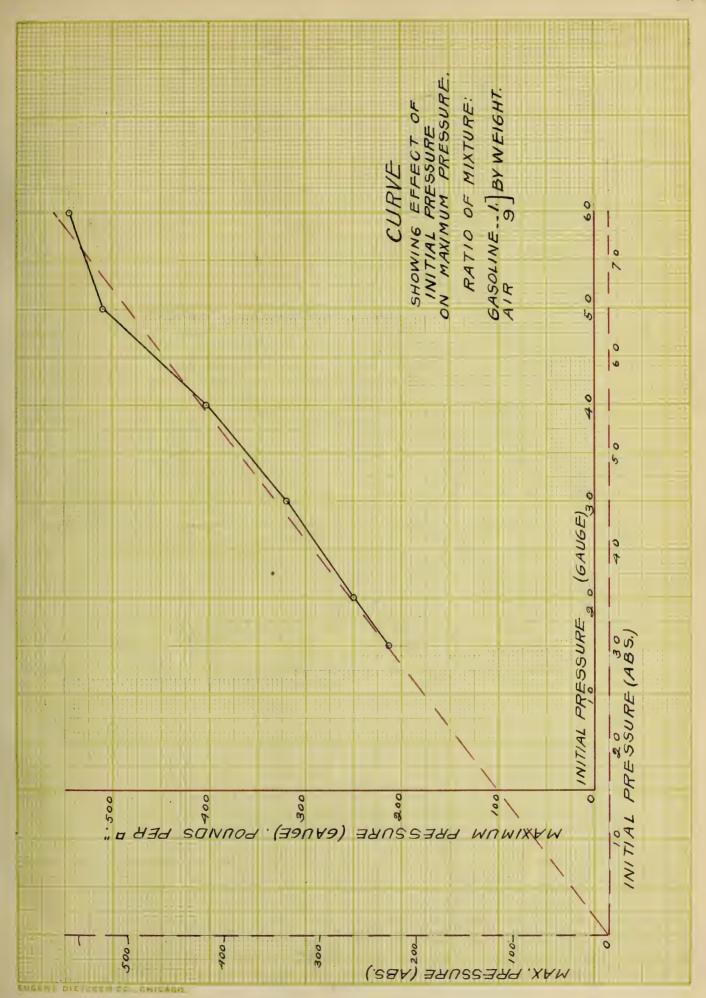


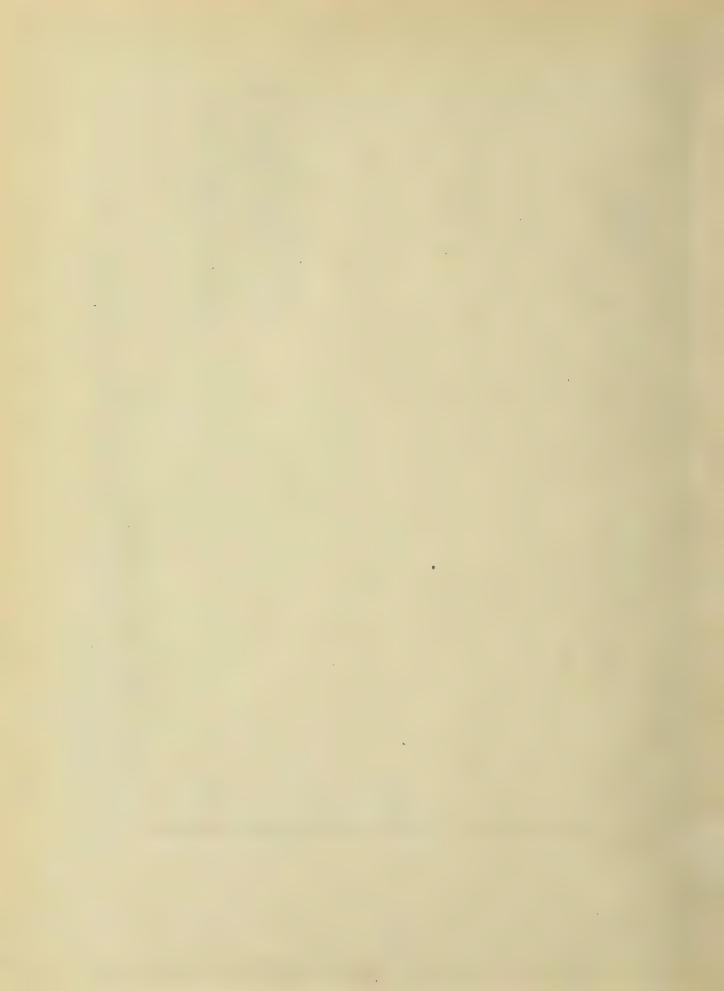


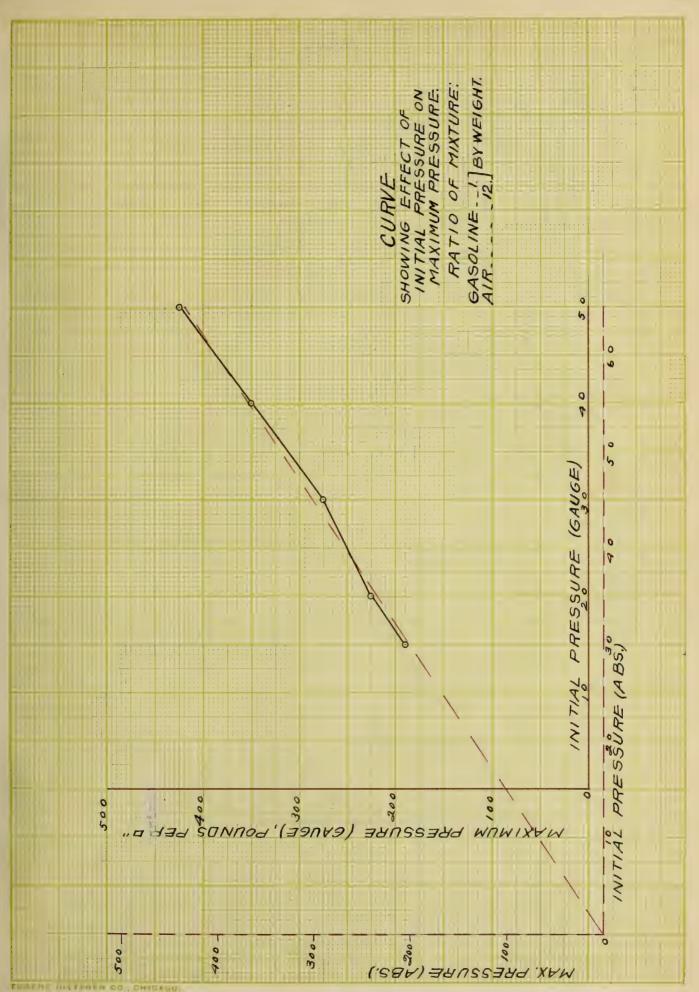


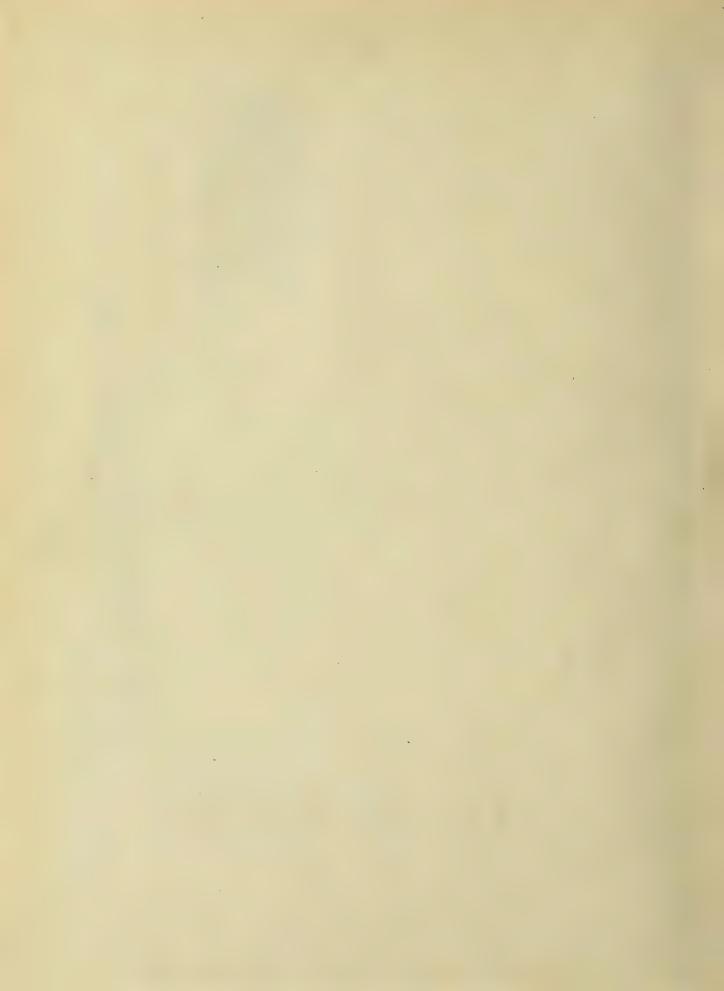


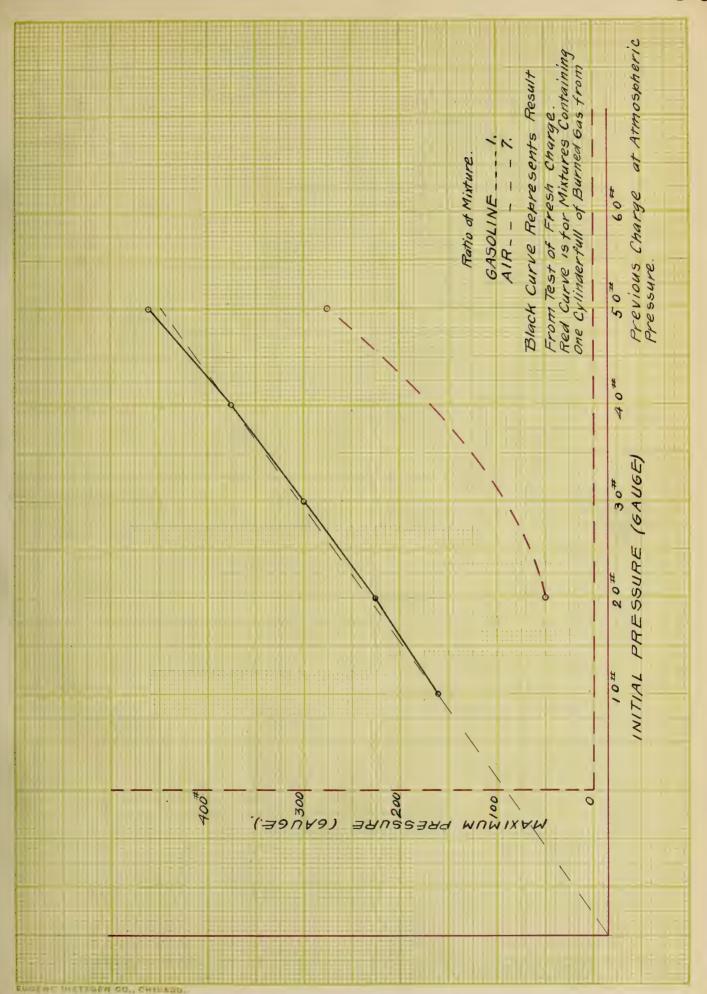




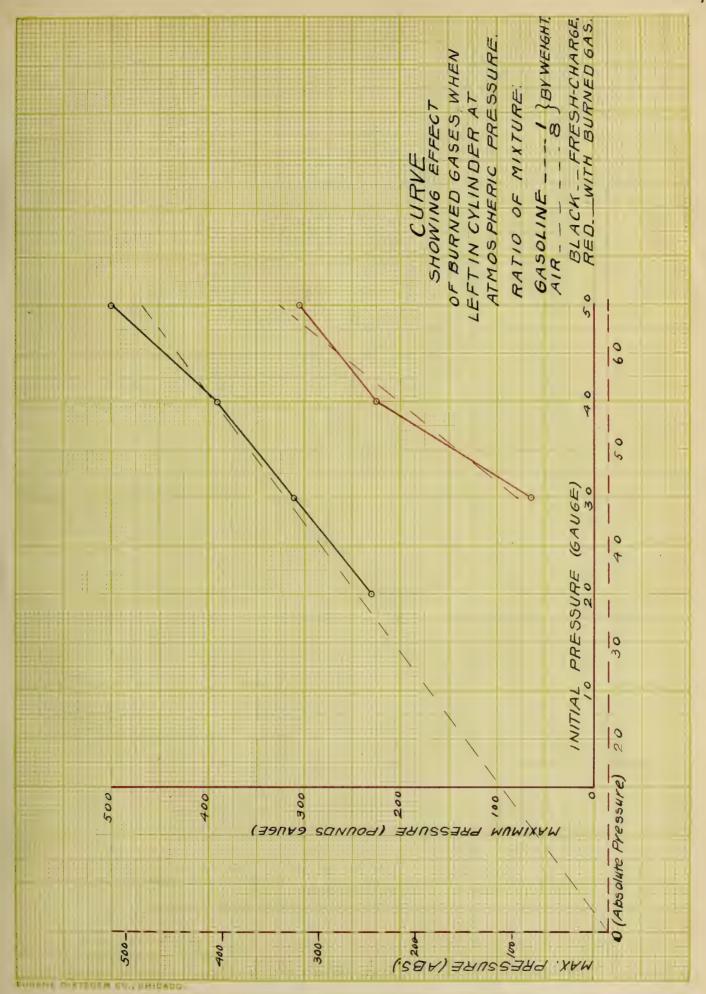


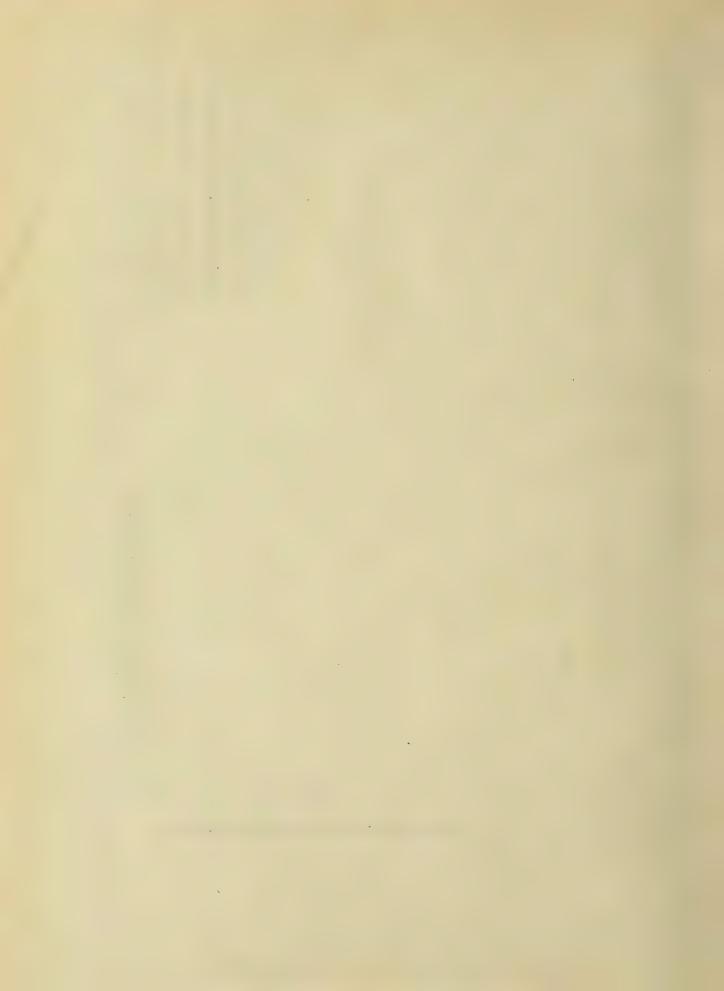


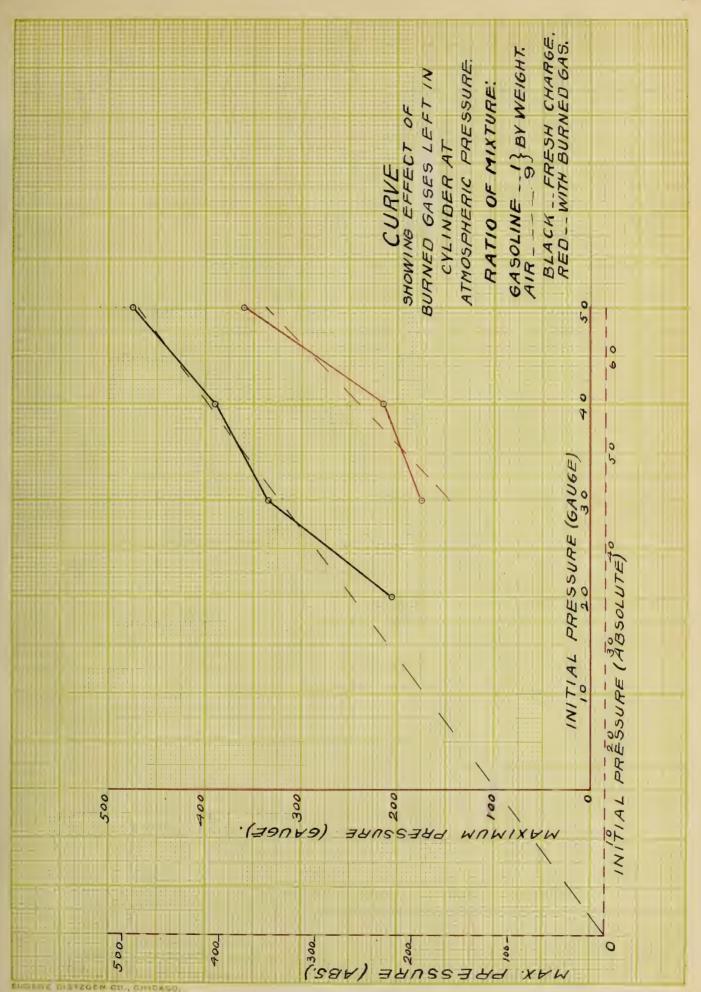


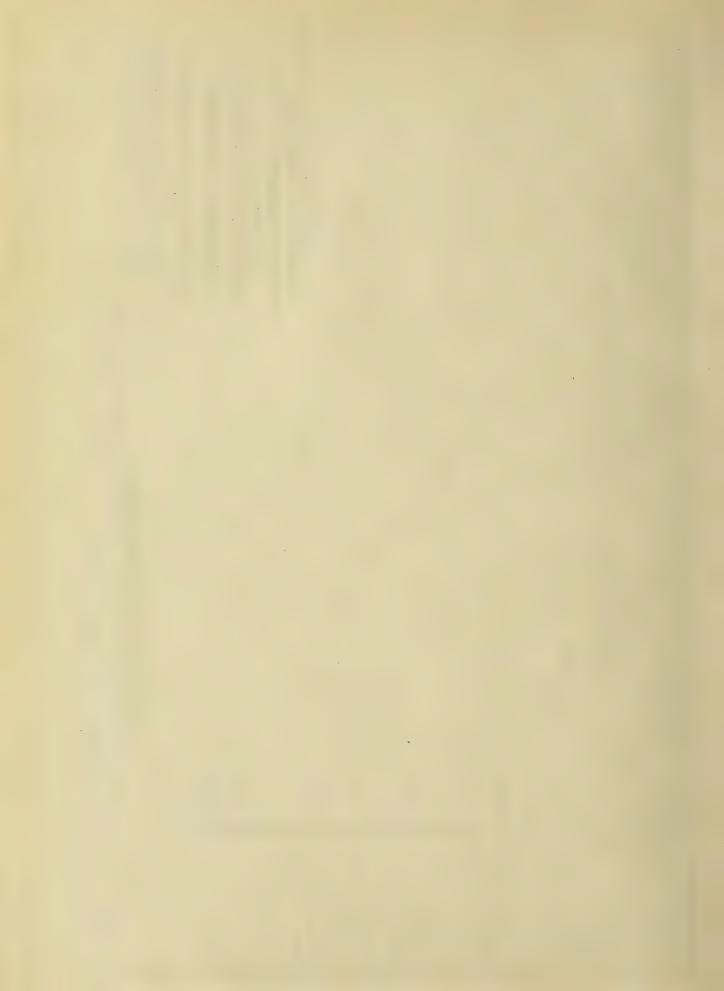


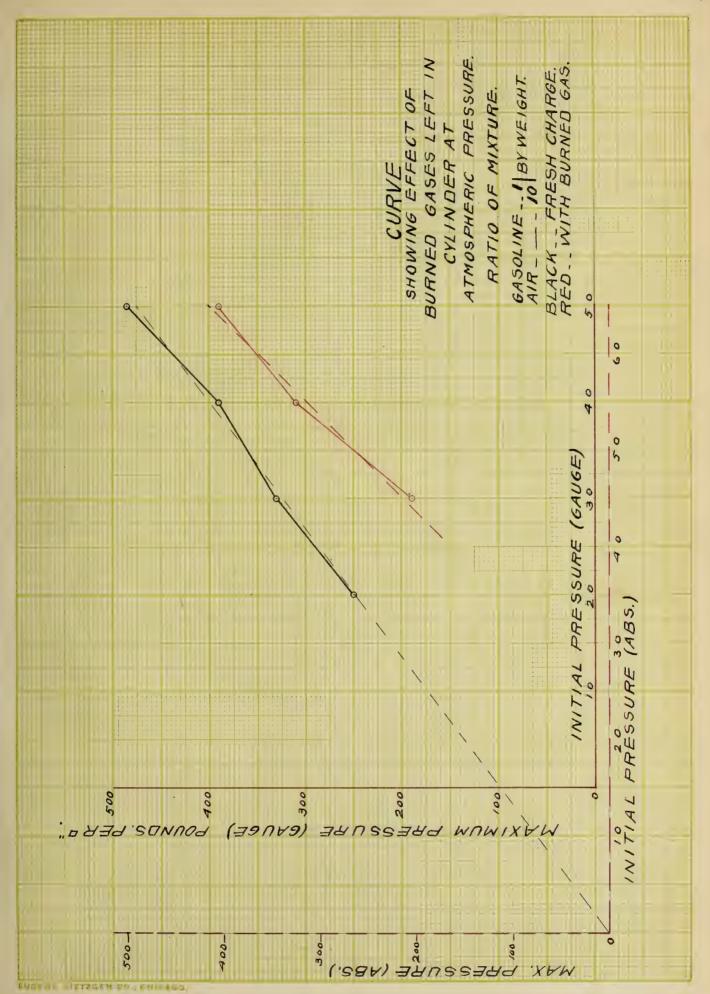




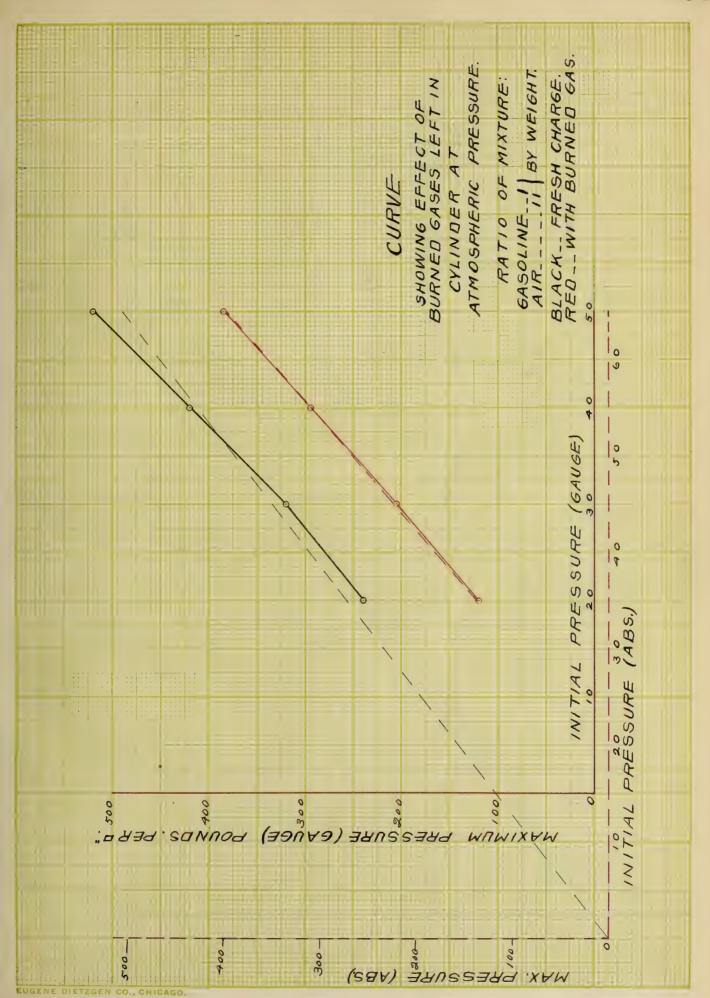




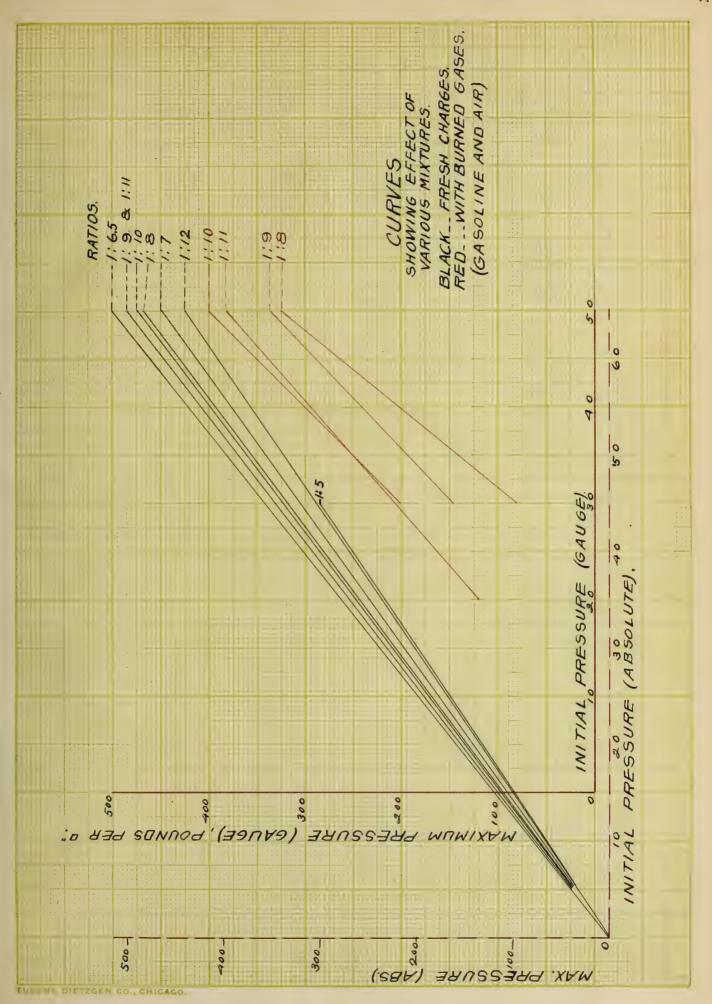


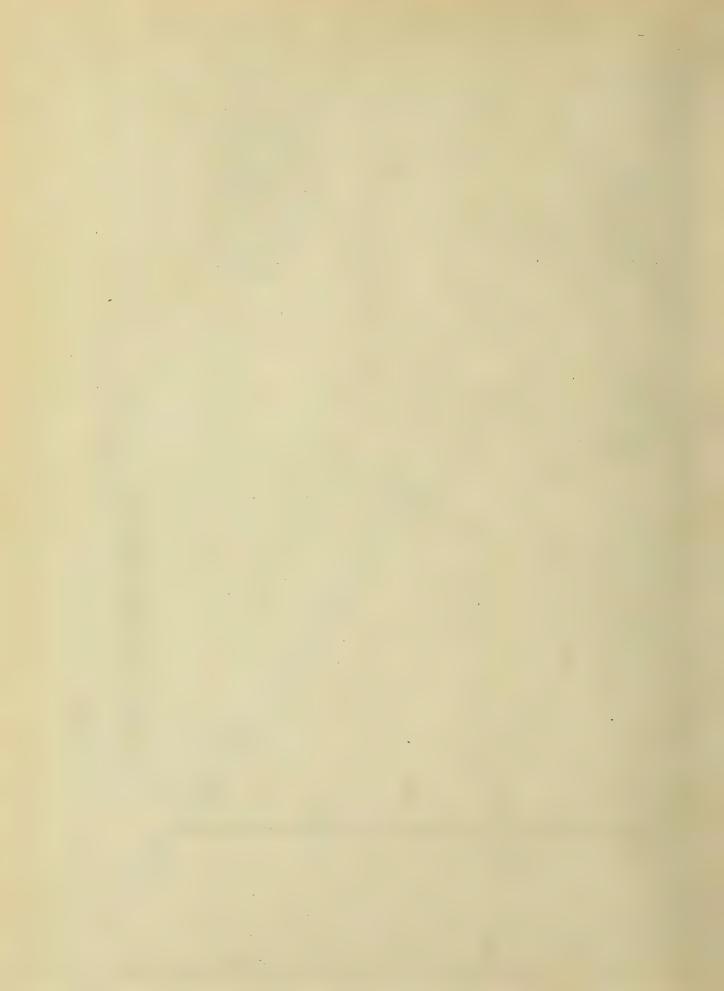


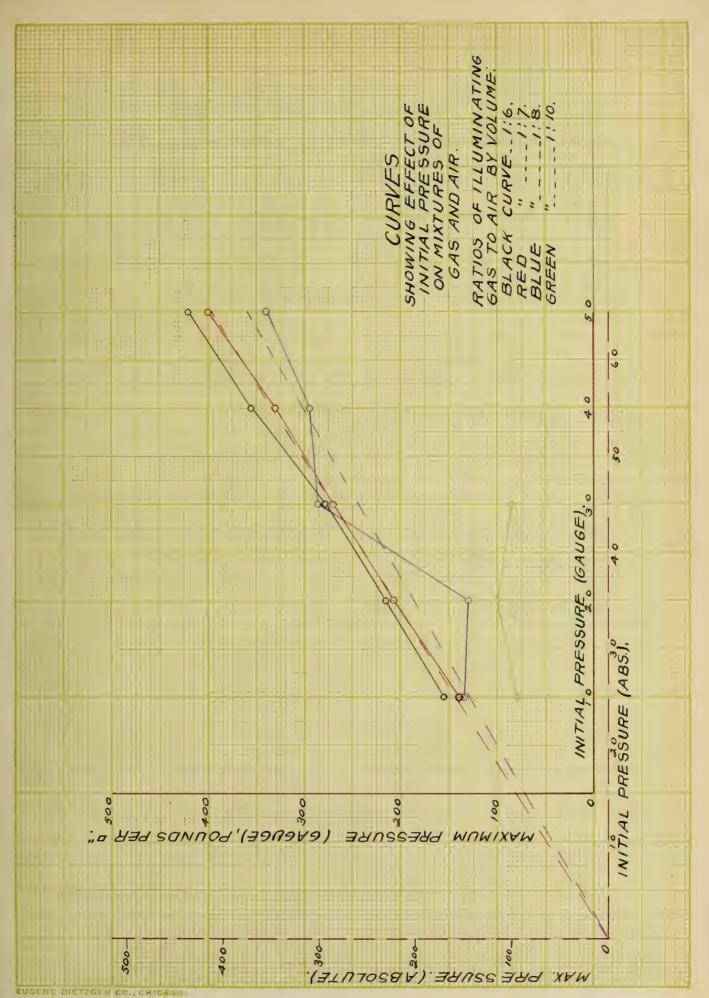










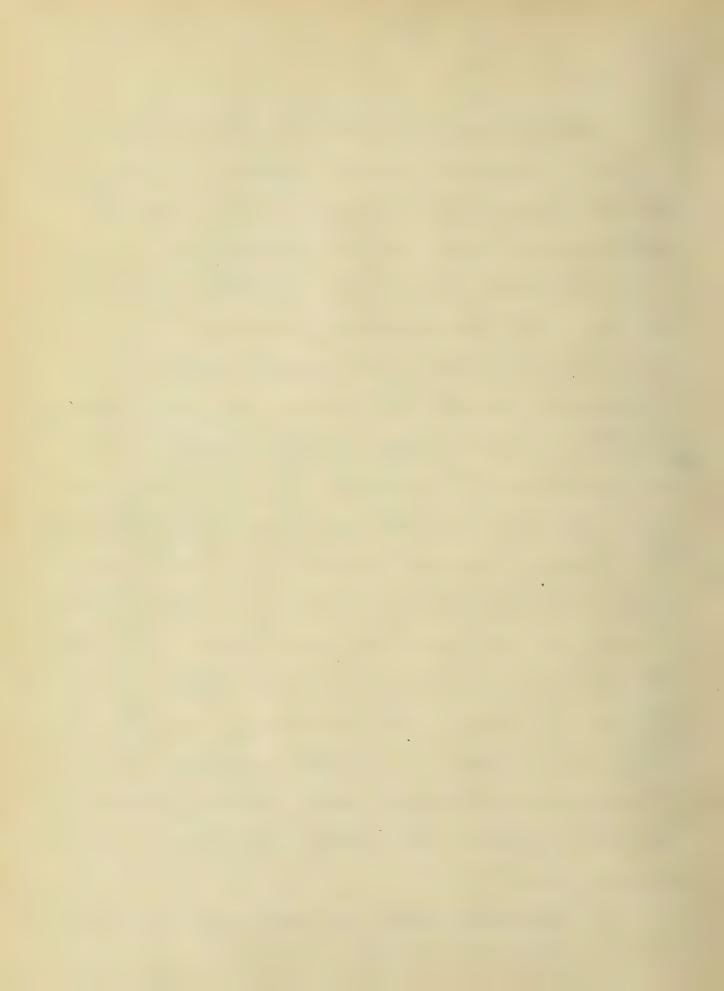




Explanation of the Indicator Cards. The following cards, which are thought to be representative ones, will serve to illustrate some of the points discussed. In these cards the bottom line is a line of atmospheric pressure. The mitial pressures mentioned in conection with the cards are gauge pressures. The scale of the spring used in the undicator is to be taken as 320th per mich. The two cards on each page are from The same ratio of myture and the same mitial pressure, the upper card being from a mixture of gasoline and pure air, while the lower card is from a mixture as of turned by leaving the burned gases from the previous explosion in the cylinder at atmospheric pressure and adding Enough fresh mixture to raise the pressure to the desired point,

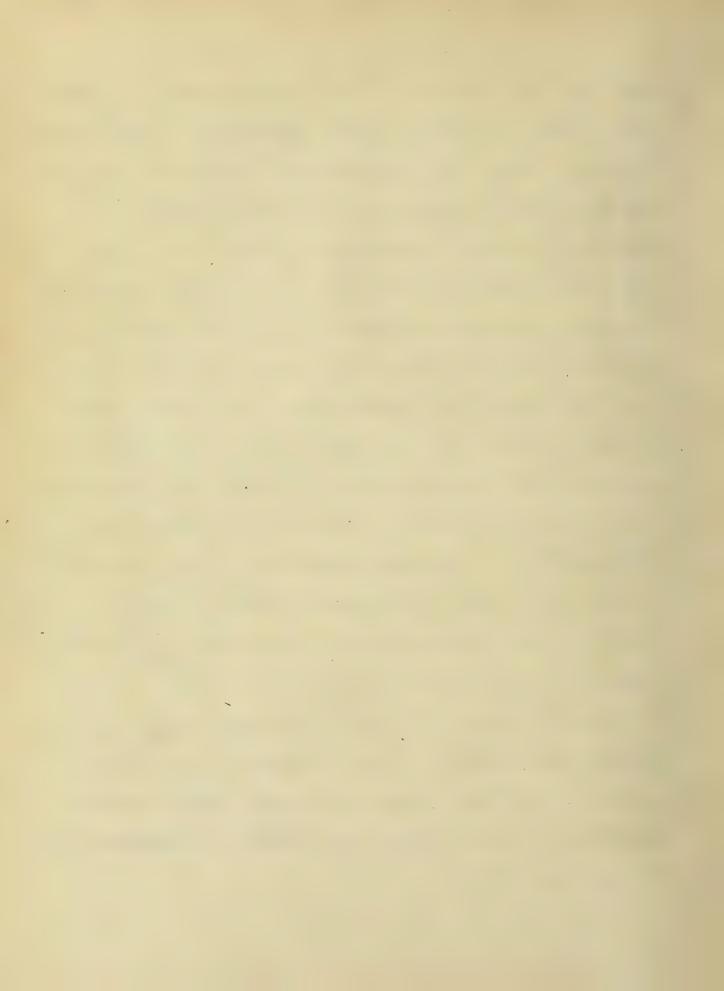
a characteristic crook will be noticed

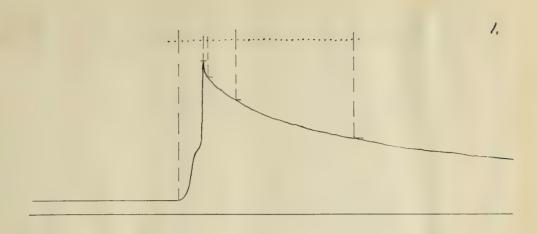
to be present in the explosion line of



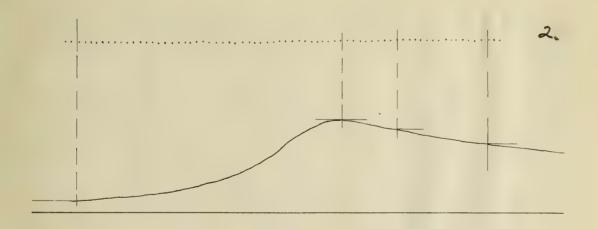
all of the cards. I he explanation offered for this is that the explosion cylinder being long in proportion to its diameter, when the explosion took place a sort of wave passed from one end to the other of the gas in the cylinder Causing a variation in the pressure. I his Clook does not seem to be present in the case of explosions in the clear unce space of a gas engine which is short in comparison with its drameter. I his would go to uphold the above ex planation. It is noticable, too, that this crook tends to disappear when the explosion takes place very showly as in Cards mumbered 2, 4, 8 and 16.

The line of dots at the top of each card-gives the time between any two fromts on the pressure curve the distance between two adjacent dots corresponding to 50 second.





Card no. 1.
Initial Pressure 50# Ratio of Inisture:
Maximum .. 500#. Gasoline 1, Air 8.
Fresh Charge.



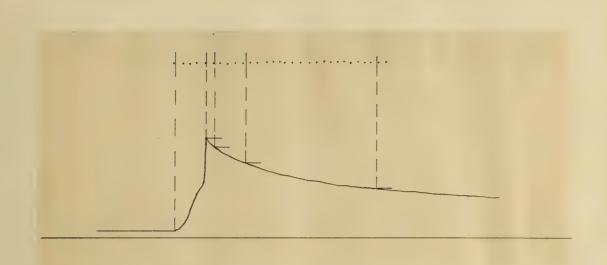
Card Iro. 2.

I nitial Pressure 50# Ratio of misture:

Maximum " 305# Gasoline 1, sir 8.

Charge containing burned gases at
atmospheric pressure.

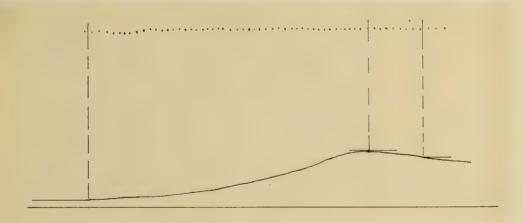




Card number 3.

I notial Pressure, 30# Ratio of Inisture:
Inaximum " 335# Gasoline 1, air 9.

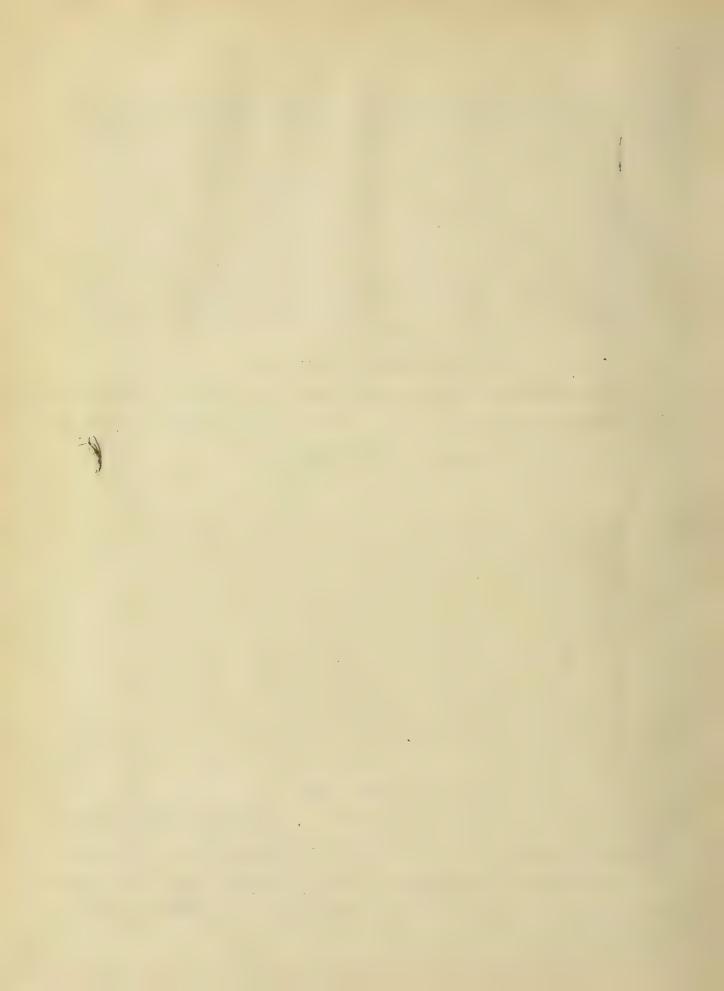
Thresh Charge.

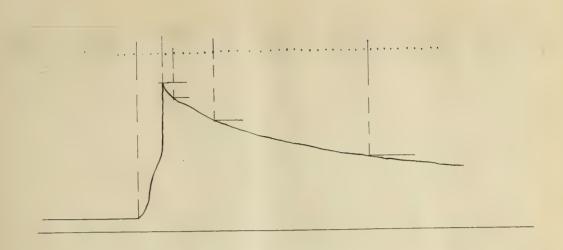


Card number 4.

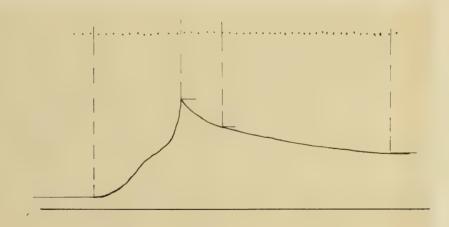
Initial Pressure 30# Ratio of Inisture
maximum " 175# Gasoline 1, air 9.

Cylinder Charged when full of burned
gas from perevious charge at atmospheric
pressure.





Dnitial Pressure 50# Ratio of Trusture Inaximum " 495# Gasoline 1, air 9. Fresh Charge.

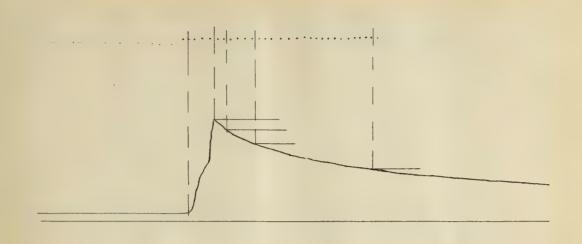


Card Iro. 6.

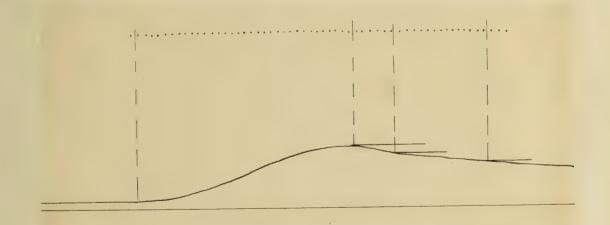
Initial Pressure 50# Ratio of Fristure
Inaximum " 360# Gasoline 1, air 9.

Cylinder Charged when full of burned
gas from previous Charge at atmospheric
pressure.





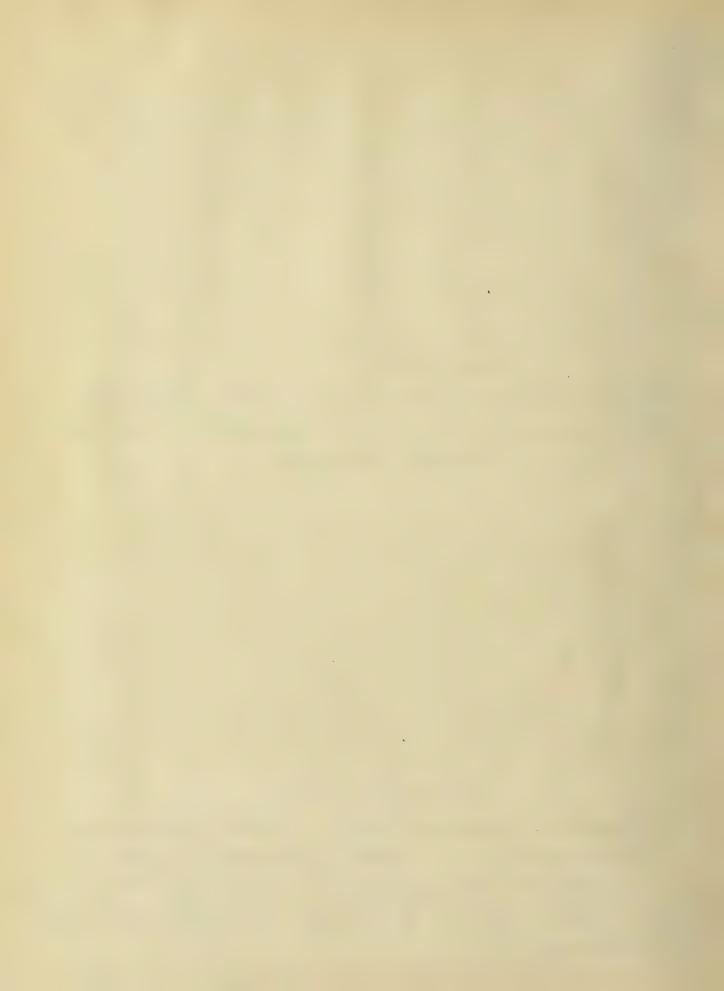
Card Iro. 7.
Initial pressure 30# Ratio of mixture
Fraximum " 330# Gasoline 1, air 10.
Fresh Charge.

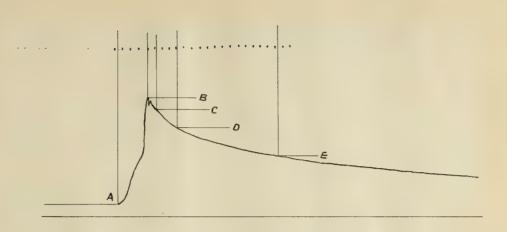


Card Iro, 8.

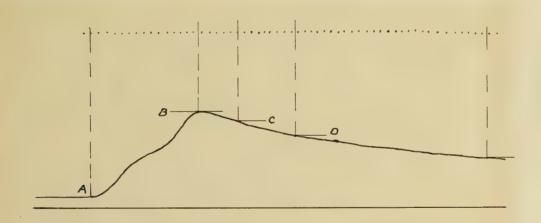
Initial presence 30# Ratio of mixture Frankinum " 190# Gasoline 1, air 10.

Cylinder Charged when full of burned gos from previous charge at atmospheric pressure.



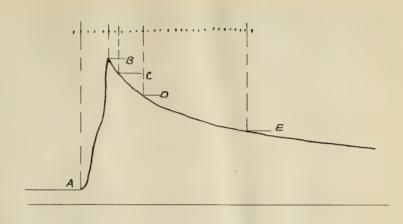


Card Iro. 9. Initial Pressure. 40# Ratio of Inixture, Maximum " 390# Gasoline!, air 10. Fresh Charge.

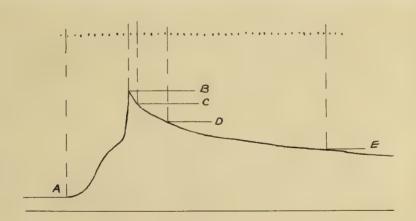


Duitial Pressure 40 # Ratio of Fristure Imaximum " 310 # Jasoline, air 10. Cylinder charges when full of burned gas from previous Charge at itmospheric pressure.





Smitial Pressure 50 #. Ratio of Inisture, Imaximum " 485# Gasoline", Air 10. Fresh Charge.



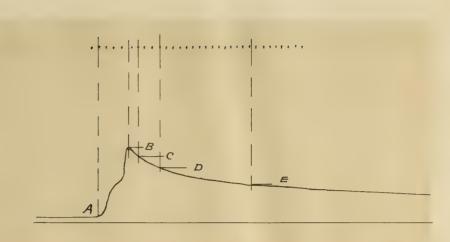
Card Iso. 12.

Initial Pressure. 50 th Ratio of Inisture.

Maximum " 390 th Gasoline, This 10.

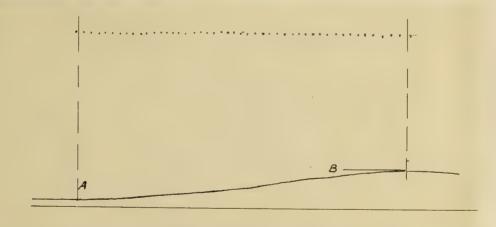
Cylinder charged when full of burned gas from previous Charge at atmospheric pressure.





Card Fro. 13.
Initial Pressure - 20# Ratio of Inisture.
Fresh Charge.

Thresh Charge.



Card Ho. 14.

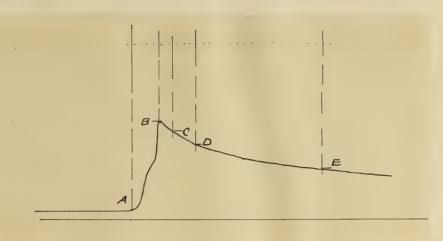
Initial Pressure 20#. Ratio of Inisture

Maximum " 120# Gasoline 1, air 11.

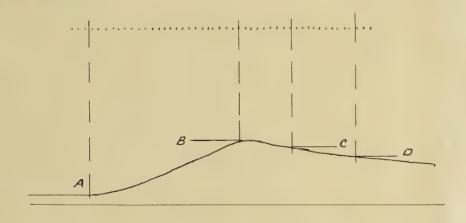
Cylinder Charged when full of burned

gas at atmospheric pressure.





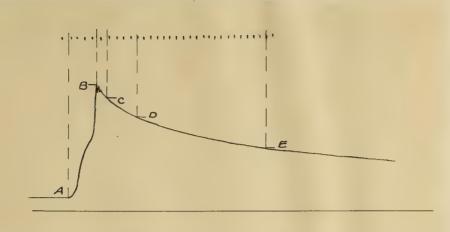
Card Ito, 15. Initial Pressure 30# Ratio of mixture Maximum " 320 # Gasoline 1, air 11. Fresh Charge.



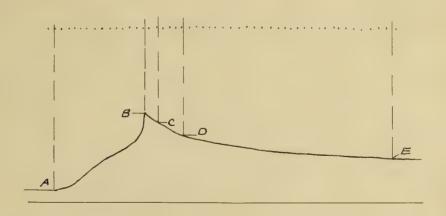
Initial Pressure 30# Ratio of Fruiture.
Maximum Pressure 205# Jasolines, Tir 11.

Cylinder Charges when full of burned
gas from previous charge at atmospheric
pressure.





Duitial Pressure 40#. Ratio of mixture Maximum " 420# Jasoline 1, Tir 11. Fresh Charge.



Initial Pressure 40 # Ratio of Inisture

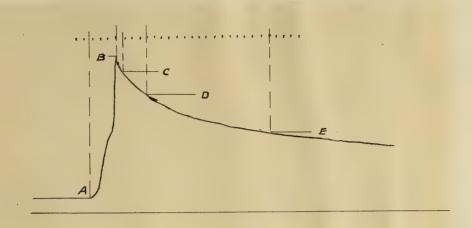
Maximum " 295 # Juroline 1, air 11.

Cylinder Charged when full of burned

yas from previous Charge at atmospheric

fressure.

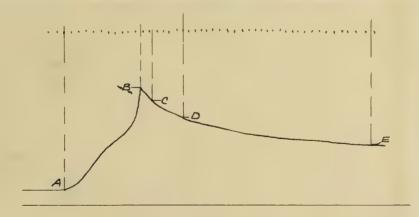




Card no. 19.

Initial Pressure 50# Ratio of misture,

Fresh Charge,



Card ho, 20.

Initial Pressure 50# Ratio of Mixture
maximum " 385# Gasoline, Vir 11,
Cylinder Charges when full of burned
gas from previous charge at atmospheric
pressure.



INITIAL PRESSURE	RA	RATIO TIME REQUIRED			MAXIMUM PRESSURE		TIME REQUIRED FOR A DROP IN PRESSURE OF -					
POUNDS (GAUGE) PER D"	Gasoline	Air.	FOR COMBUSTION SECONDS			NDS VGE)	10% - SE		25% CONDS-		50%	
			FRESH	OLD	FRESH	OLD	FRESH	OLD	FRESH	OLD	FRESH	OLD.
. 20	1	7	17	X	225	50	.02		.08		48	
30	/	7	./6	X	300		.02		.08		,54	
50	1	7	.09	х	465	275	.02		.08		.50	
20	/	8	.09	X	230		.04		.14		.50	
30	1	8	.09	X	310	.65	102		.08		,50	
40	1	8		X	390							
50	1	8	.08	.85	500	305	.01	.18	10	48	,53	
30	1.	9	.08	95	335	175	.02	.16	.//		48	
50	/	9	.06	,22	495	360	,03	,03	12	.//	.50	.63
30	/	10	.07	,66	330	190	,04	11	.12	40	48	
40	1	10	.07	29	390	310	.02	11	.08	28	,34	.82
50	1	10	.08	.18		390		.02	,10	.//	44	,60
20	/	//	.08	.92	240	120	.03		,09		,37	
30	1	//	.08	,47	320	205	.04	16	.10	,38	46	47
40	1	//	.08	,27	420	295	,03	,04	11	.12	,51	,69
50	1	//	.07	,21	520	385	,02	,04	.08	1/3	40	,68
note:	X-	nea	us t	hat	the	Cor	echn	stion	n to	oh;	plac	e
too s	low	ly ;	to t	le ca	lles	an	exp	losio	u,			



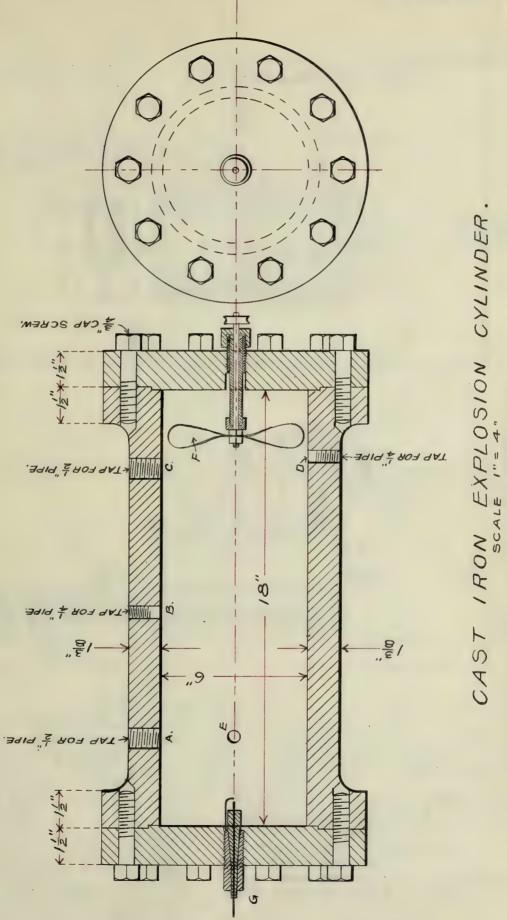
Heating value and Specific Gravity of gasoline used in all tests mentioned in this discussion.

Heating value. 19400 to 19500 B.T.U. per found.

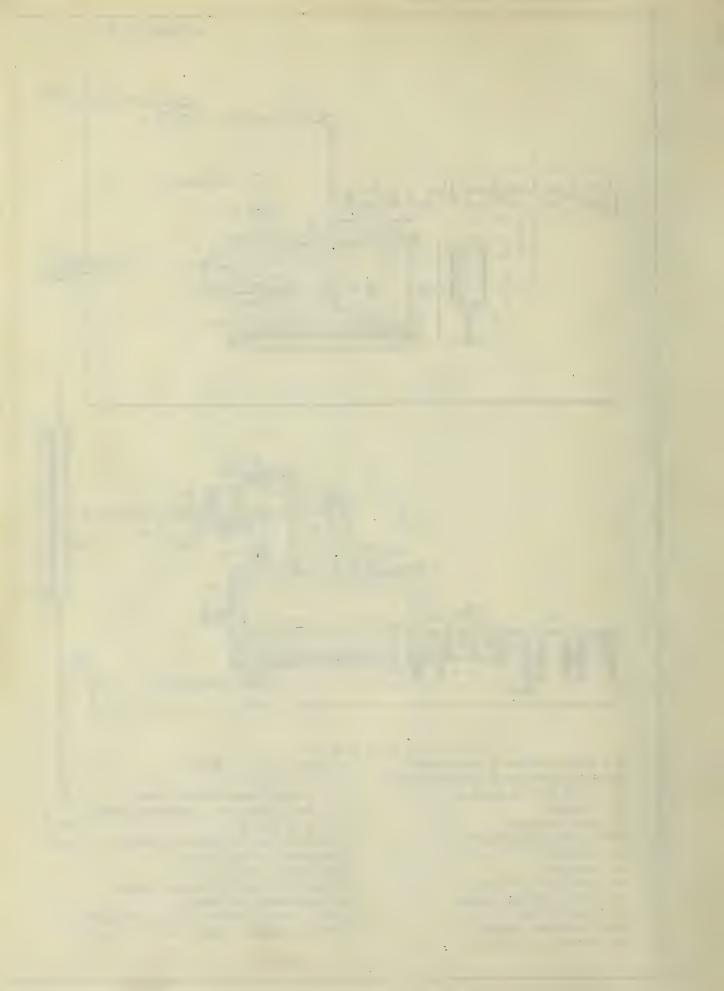
Specific - gravity.

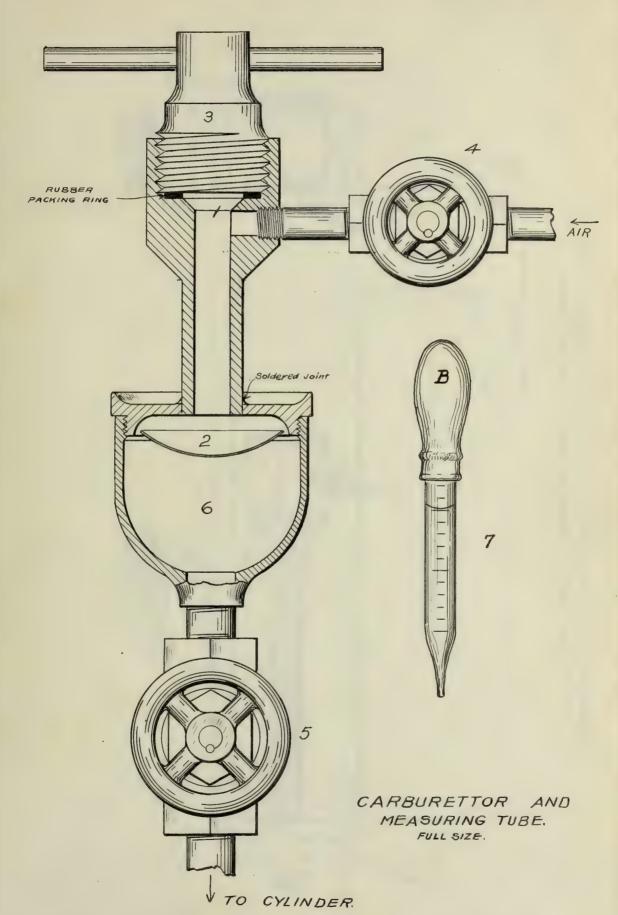
Us determied by hydrometer .7095

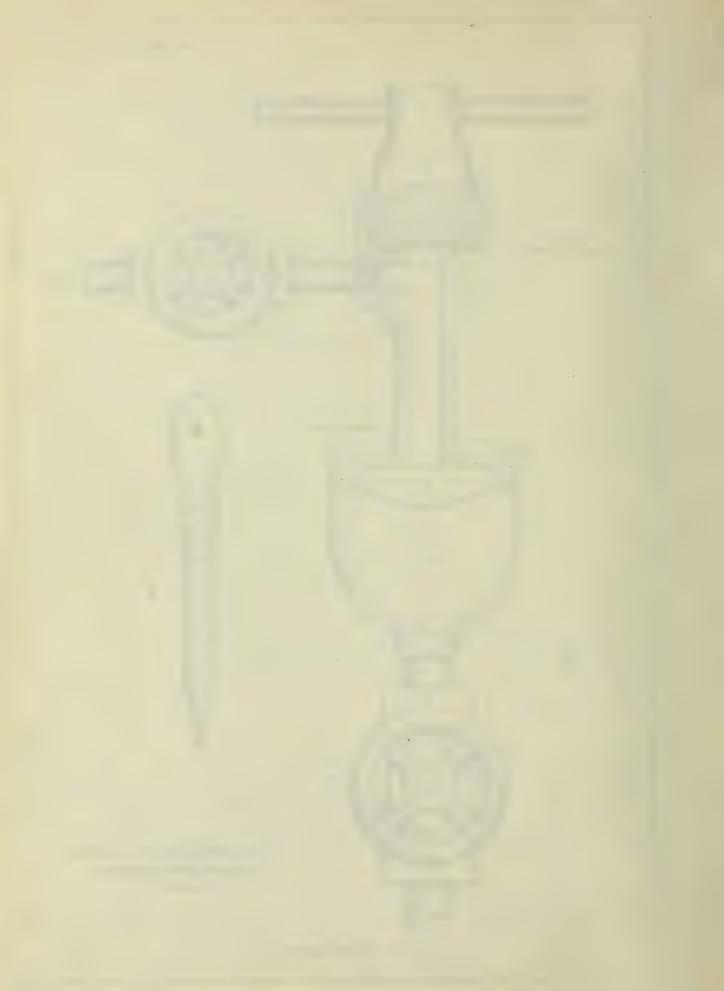


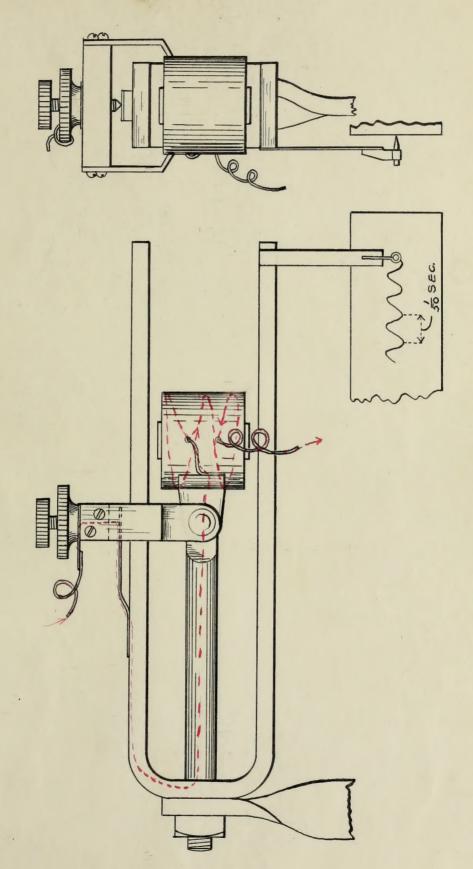












CURRENT FOLLOWS PATH SHOWN IN DOTTED RED. ELECTRICALLY OPERATED TIMING FORK.





